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MAN

A BIG 52 PAGE MAGAZINE!

MAN COMICS

OCT.

10¢

"IT WAS MY SWORN DUTY TO KILL THE FATHER OF THE BOY WHO WORSHIPPED ME!!" DON'T MISS THE MOST GRIPPING STORY IN COMICS... THE "FALLEN HERO!"

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

NO. 4

A FRIEND THERE WAS!

PLUS...

STORY OF A BOY, A RANCH, A PROBLEM AND...

BLACK LIGHTNING!

YOU KILLED MY FATHER! I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT, INSPECTOR... NEVER!!!
BUT GERRY, IT WAS MY DUTY!
YOU WON'T PULL THAT TRIGGER, HOBBS! 'CAUSE YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU DO, GERRY WILL HATE YOU FOR AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!
SHOOT, HOBBS! SHOOT... OR I'LL HAVE YOUR BADGE!
POLICE

FASCINATING NOVELTIES! SEND TODAY!

AMAZING! SENSATIONAL! FUN!

Hello! I'm SANDY! I drink I wet I sleep and you can WAVE MY HAIR!

I have RUBBER WONDERSKIN!

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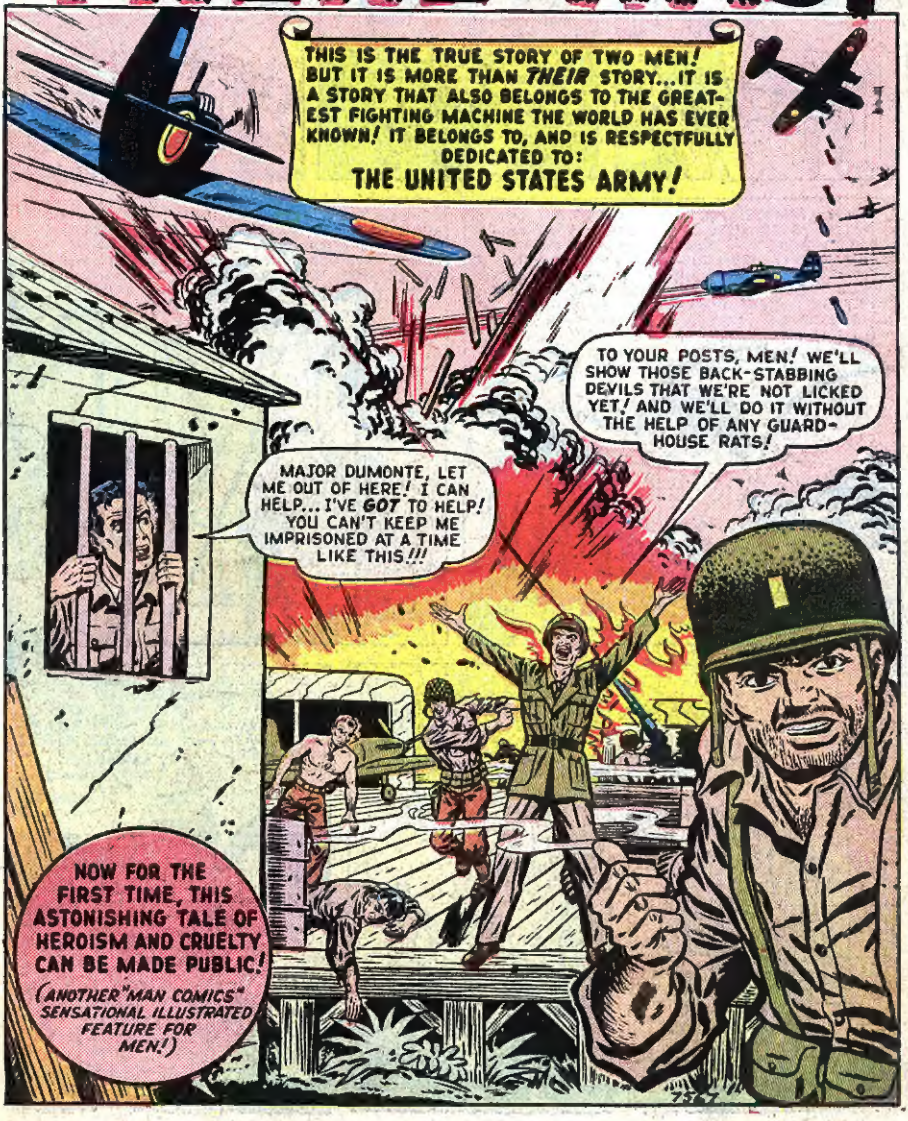
A FRIEND THERE WAS!


THIS IS THE TRUE STORY OF TWO MEN! BUT IT IS MORE THAN THEIR STORY... IT IS A STORY THAT ALSO BELONGS TO THE GREATEST FIGHTING MACHINE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN! IT BELONGS TO, AND IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO: THE UNITED STATES ARMY!
TO YOUR POSTS, MEN! WE'LL SHOW THOSE BACK-STABBING DEVILS THAT WE'RE NOT LICKED YET! AND WE'LL DO IT WITHOUT THE HELP OF ANY GUARD-HOUSE RATS!
MAJOR DUMONTE, LET ME OUT OF HERE! I CAN HELP... I'VE GOT TO HELP! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME IMPRISONED AT A TIME LIKE THIS!!!
NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME, THIS ASTONISHING TALE OF HEROISM AND CRUELTY CAN BE MADE PUBLIC!
(ANOTHER "MAN COMICS" SENSATIONAL ILLUSTRATED FEATURE FOR MEN!)

THE PLACE...AN ENGINEER'S FIELD OFFICE OF THE HAYES CONSTRUCTION CO. THE TIME: A DAY THAT WAS THE TURNING POINT IN THE DESTINY OF MANKIND...THE CAST: TWO FRIENDS, ENGINEERS FOR THE COMPANY, STARTING THE DAY IN THEIR USUAL FASHION...

ALL RIGHT, PAUL! WE'LL CONNECT THE SUSPENSION CABLES ON THE JERSEY SIDE OF THE BRIDGE TODAY!

I CAN HANDLE IT OKAY! LET ME WORK ON IT MYSELF, ART!

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE, MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO, PAUL! THIS JOB IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT TO AFFORD ANY EXPERIMENTS!

EXPERIMENTS? JUST WHAT IS THIS? I KNOW YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE ENGINEERING HERE, AND I'M UNDER YOU, BUT WE'VE HAD THE SAME TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE! WHY ***CAN'T*** I HANDLE IT ALONE?

EVERYTHING YOU SAY IS TRUE! BUT...I ***AM*** IN CHARGE...AND I ***AM*** RESPONSIBLE TO THE COMPANY! DON'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER FOR ME THAN IT IS! LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ART! I'M SORRY I SOUNDED OFF LIKE THAT! OKAY... LET'S KEEP THAT BRIDGE FROM FALLING INTO THE RIVER!

SORRY! ***HMPH!*** LIKE HECK I'M SORRY! LOOK AT HIM...SMUG AND SURE OF HIMSELF! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY! AT SCHOOL...AND ON THE JOB. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN JUST A STEP AHEAD OF ME! I'M AS GOOD AS HE IS ANY DAY! SOMEDAY MY CHANCE WILL COME TO SHOW HIM UP AND PROVE THAT I'M BETTER THAN HE IS! MEANWHILE...BE PATIENT, PAUL DUMONTE! YOU'LL BE BIGGER THAN ART HENNESSEY...MUCH BIGGER!

THERE! THE SUSPENSION CABLES ARE CONNECTED! AND A GOOD JOB YOU DID, TOO, PAUL! YOU COULD HAVE DONE THIS YOURSELF, OF COURSE...BUT I ***HAD*** TO BE SURE!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ART! FORGET IT! AS LONG AS THE JOB IS DONE RIGHT, THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING!

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY! A LESSER MAN WOULD BE RESENTFUL! WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME, PAUL AND I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!

ME, TOO, ART! I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!

HAY
CONSTR
COMPA

YEAH! UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO OVER-STEP YOU! THEN YOU WON'T SEE ME FOR SMOKE!

ART! PAUL! COME HERE QUICK!

WHAT'S JOE YELLING ABOUT?

WHAT'S UP, JOE? YOU LOOK PRETTY EXCITED! HAS SOMETHING GONE WRONG WITH THE JOB?

EXCITED? LISTEN TO THIS! IT JUST CAME OVER THE RADIO! ***THE JAPS BOMBED PEARL HARBOR!***

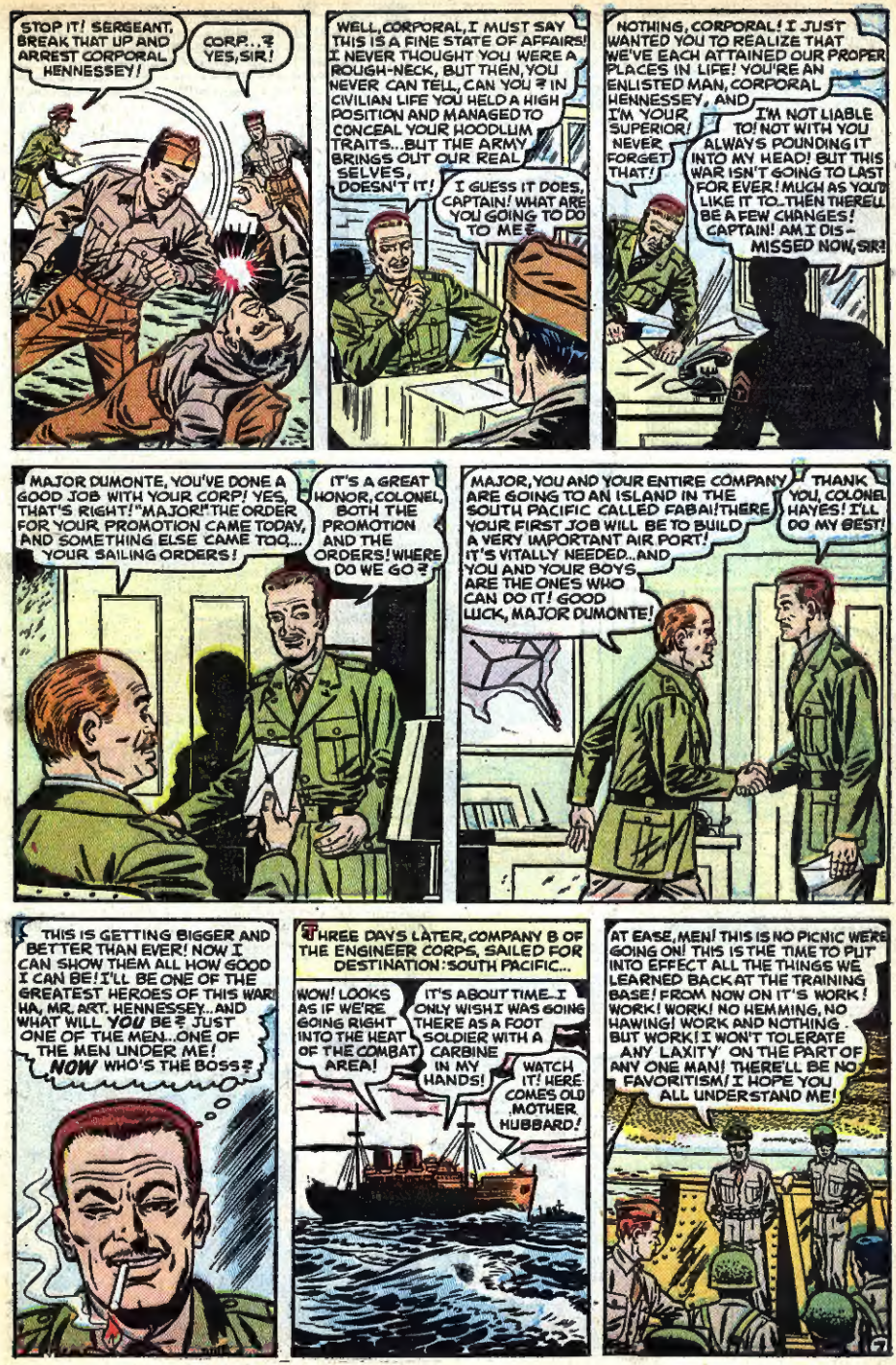
WHAT?

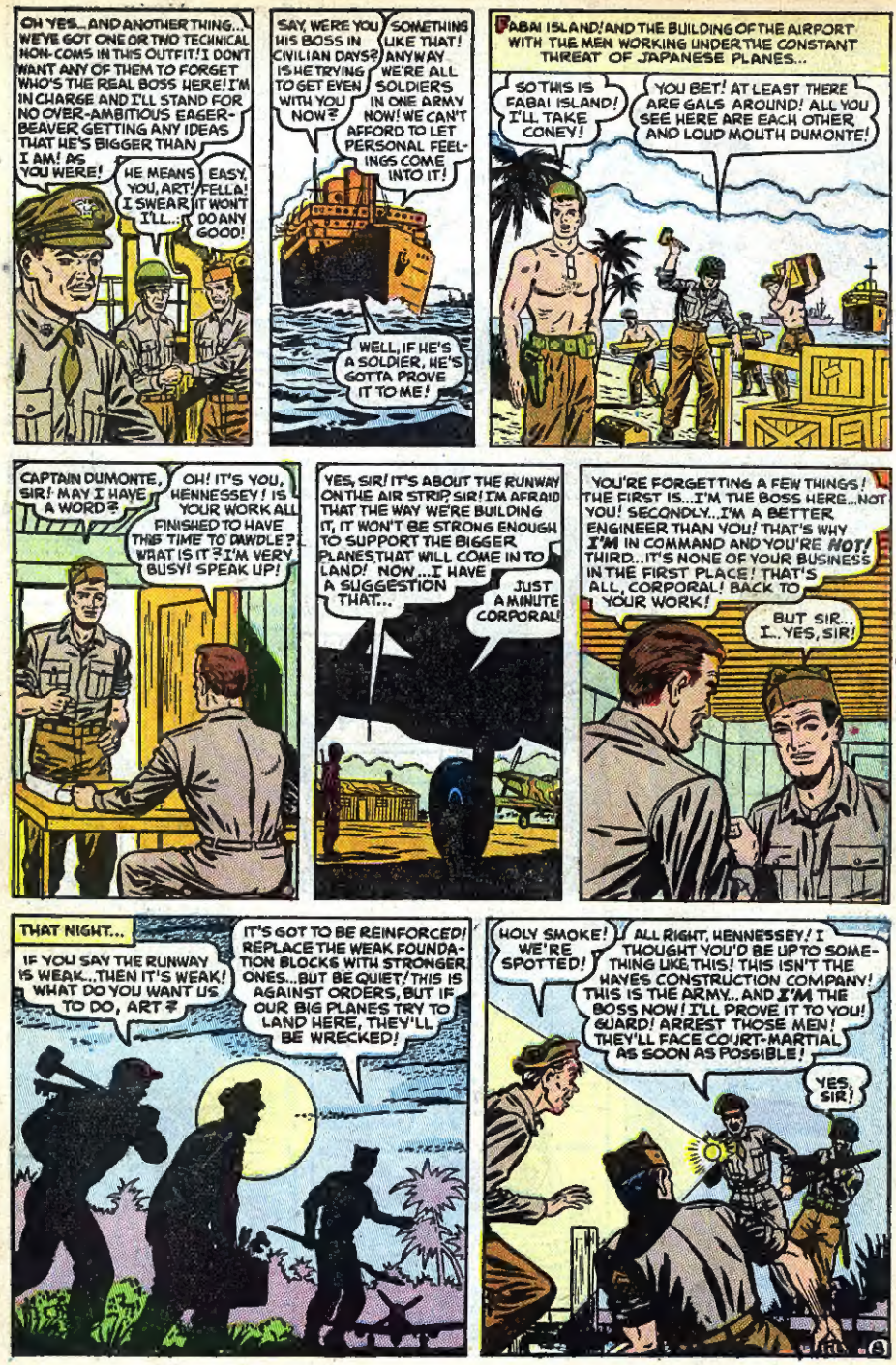
SO... IT'S COME AT LAST! WAR! THIS, AS THEY SAY IN THE MOVIES, IS IT! MAKES OUR INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS LOOK VERY PETTY, DOESN'T IT?
WELL, IT'S MAKING AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN MY LIFE! I'M ENLISTING AT ONCE! HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? THE ARMY NEEDS TRAINED ENGINEERS LIKE YOU! AND IF YOU JOIN UP BEFORE THEY DRAFT YOU, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE AT A COMMISSION!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JOE! THAT'S WHAT I WANT... A COMMISSION! IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SHOW WHAT I CAN DO!
THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! I'LL GO TO OFFICERS' CANDIDATE SCHOOL... MAKE MY MARK IN THE ARMY... I'LL SHOW ART WHO'S THE BETTER MAN!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, ART?
IT'S THE INFANTRY FOR ME! I WANT TO GET INTO THE ACTION!
NO, HENNESSEY! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THE WORK YOU CAN DO IN THE ENGINEERING CORPS, IS AS IMPORTANT TO WINNING THE WAR AS BEING IN THE INFANTRY! YOUR PLACE IS IN THAT CORPS!
RECRUITING OFFICE U.S. ARMY
ALL RIGHT, SERGEANT! ALL I WANT IS TO DO MY SHARE!
DEC. 8 1943
I WANT TO APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOR O.C.S.! AFTER ALL, WITH MY TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE, IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO PUT ME INTO SOMETHING WHERE IT'D BE WASTED!
IF YOU QUALIFY, YOU WILL BE ADMITTED TO O.C.S., DUMONTE! THE ARMY IS ANXIOUS TO PLACE ITS MEN IN THE PROPER SPOTS FOR THEM!
FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, DUMONTE AND HENNESSEY WERE SEPARATED, LOST IN THE GREAT SHUFFLE OF THE MAKING OF AN ARMY! THEN, AT AN ENGINEER CORPS TRAINING BASE IN THE U.S.A....
HEY, FELLAS, OUR NEW NINETY-DAY WONDER IS COMING IN TODAY! I JUST SAW HIM AT THE C.O.'S!
ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE! I WONDER WHAT NEW MIRACLE HE'S GOING TO PERFORM TO WIN THE WAR!
WATCH IT! HERE HE COMES!
ATTENTION, MEN! THIS IS THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER OF COMPANY B! LIEUTENANT PAUL DUMONTE!
PAUL! HOLY SMOKE! IT'S PAUL! BOY, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU! HOW...
WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU FORGETTING YOURSELF, PRIVATE? TEN-SION!
HUH?... ER... YES, SIR! I'M SORRY! I... I DID FORGET MYSELF!
WHAT THE HECK IS EATING HIM?
3

THIS IS THE ARMY, PRIVATE! I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN IN IT LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT CIVILIAN LIFE IS FAR BEHIND ALL OF US! THESE ARE NEW TIMES...WITH NEW STANDARDS...AND NEW RANKS! I HOPE I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR!
YES, SIR! QUITE CLEAR!
I'M GLAD WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER! NOW, MEN, LET US UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER! I'M AN ENGINEER AND I ASSUME THAT ALL THE MEN IN MY COMMAND ARE ENGINEERS, TOO! I MEAN BUSINESS AND EXPECT YOU TO TOE THE MARK FROM NOW ON! THIS IS WAR...AND WE'RE GOING TO DO OUR SHARE TO WIN IT!
AS YOU WERE, MEN! CARRY ON! COME, SERGEANT! WE'VE A LOT OF WORK TO DO!
YES SIR!
BROTHER! HE'S THE WORST YET!
HEY, ART, DID YOU REALLY KNOW THAT SHAVE-TAIL ?
WHEW! HE'S GOING TO DO HIS SHARE, ALL RIGHT! TO PROVE THAT SHERMAN WAS RIGHT!
I THOUGHT I DID, PHIL! I THOUGHT I DID!
PRIVATE HENNESSEY'S A GOOD MAN, SIR! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DIDN'T TRY FOR A COMMISSION, TOO! YOU MUST BE HAPPY TO HAVE A FRIEND OF YOURS IN YOUR COMPANY!
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT, SERGEANT BURKE, ONCE AND FOR ALL! I DO NOT CONSIDER THE ARMY TO BE OLD HOME WEEK! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED PRIVATE HENNESSEY IS ONLY ONE OF THE MEN UNDER ME AND THAT'S ALL!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE ABOUT IT! NOW GET ME THE RECORDS AND FILES OF THE COMPANY! IT LOOKS PRETTY SLOPPY TO ME! I'M GOING TO HAVE MY HANDS FULL TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN IT OUT TO ANY DEGREE OF EFFICIENCY!
YES, SIR! I'LL GET THEM AT ONCE, SIR!
SO! IT'S COME AT LAST...MY CHANCE TO SHOW I'M BETTER THAN MY EX-BOSS! THIS PROVES ART NEVER WAS ANY GOOD ANYWAY! IF HE'D BEEN WORTH HIS SALT, HE, TOO, WOULD HAVE BECOME AN OFFICER! INSTEAD...LOOK AT HIM... A COMMON DITCH DIGGER...AND I'M HIS COMMANDING OFFICER... HIS SUPERIOR! YES, ART HENNESSEY... THIS IS GOING TO PROVE AN INTERESTING WAR.. VERY INTERESTING!
4

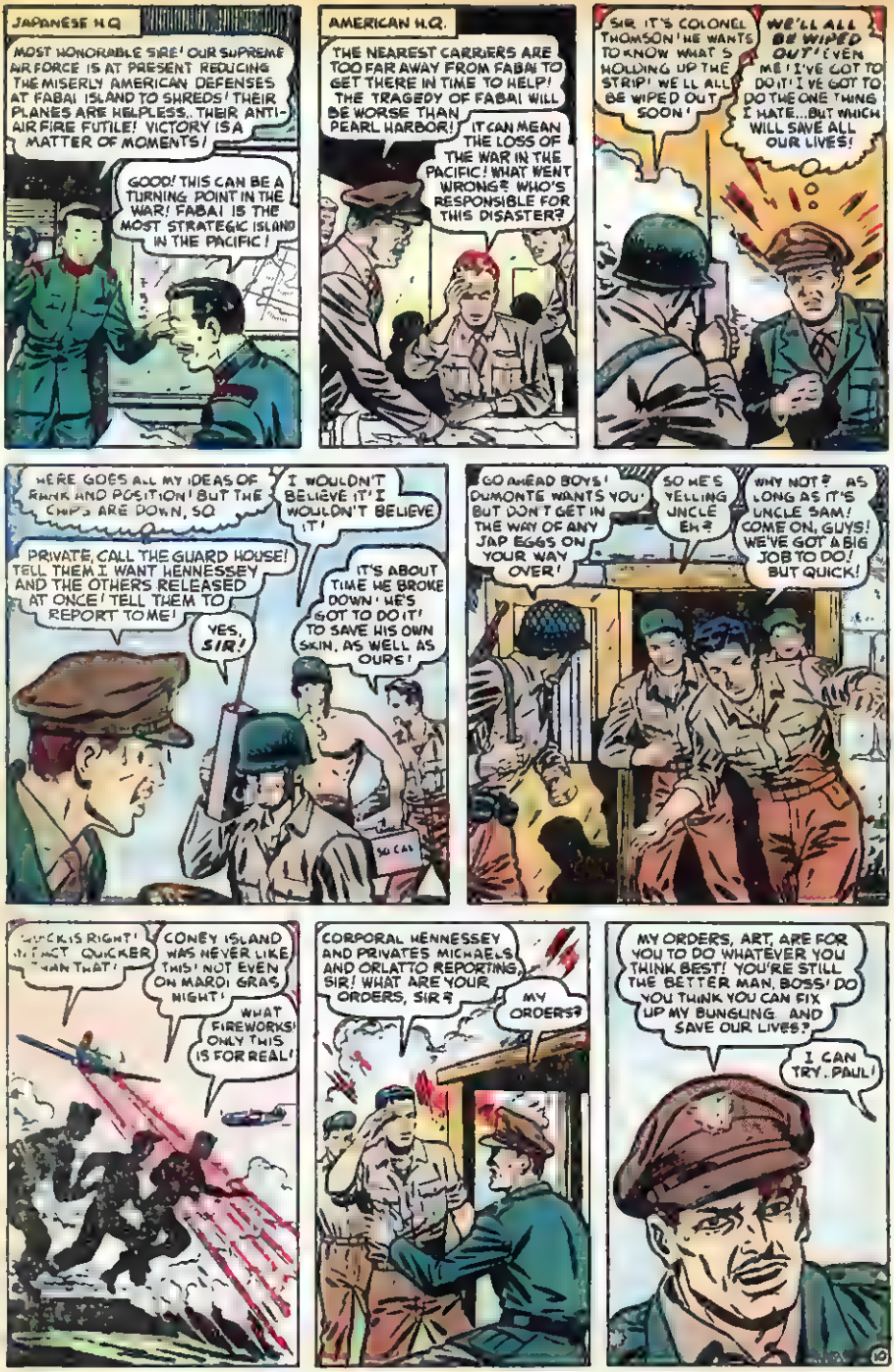
THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE SLOPPIEST JOB OF BRIDGING A RIVER I'VE EVER SEEN! IT'S A GOOD THING THIS WASN'T CONSTRUCTED IN A BATTLE AREA! WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS DETAIL?
I AM, SIR! THE BRIDGE IS CONSTRUCTED ACCORDING TO THE PLANS OKAYED BY YOU! I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, HENNESSEY! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOW A TECH-CORPORAL, IT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO CONTRADICT A CAPTAIN! ALL I WANTED TO KNOW WAS WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE!
BUT SIR, YOU ESPECIALLY PUT CORP. HENNESSEY IN CHARGE!
WHAT IS THIS? AM I SURROUNDED BY INSURGENTS AND TROUBLE MAKERS? I KNOW HENNESSEY IS IN CHARGE, SERGEANT! I WANT TO FIND OUT IF HE KNOWS IT!
YES, CAPTAIN, I KNOW IT!
I WOULDN'T THINK SO, FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS! ARE YOU WORKING FOR THE U.S. ARMY...OR FOR THE JAPS? YOU'RE RELIEVED HERE, SERGEANT BURKE, PUT SOMEONE ELSE IN CHARGE... ANYONE ELSE!
YES, SIR!
BOY! HE'S GOING TOO FAR! WHAT'S EATING HIM?
WHEW! WHAT A MONSTER! WAS HE LIKE THAT IN CIVILIAN LIFE, ART?
NO...HE WAS A GOOD GUY, HARRY! IN FACT... HE WAS MY FRIEND... MY LIFE-TIME FRIEND!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S NOT MY FRIEND ANY LONGER! THIS IS ONE SIDE OF PAUL DUMONTE THAT I NEVER KNEW! IF THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT O.C.S. CAN DO TO A GUY, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GO!
ALL OFFICERS AREN'T LIKE THAT, ART! ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL, THANK GOODNESS! BUT THOSE FEW CAN SURE MAKE IT TOUGH FOR G.I.'S LIKE US!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE CHIN-FEST! LET'S GET TO IT! WE'VE GOT A BRIDGE TO TEAR DOWN AND BUILD UP AGAIN!
OKAY, BOYS! DIG!
THAT'S THE GUY THAT SHOULD BE OUR C.O.! NOT THAT WHACKY-LIPPED CAPTAIN! I'D DO ANYTHING FOR ART... AND SO WOULD THE REST OF THE GUYS!
YOU SAID IT! THERE'S NO JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD!
6

AH, GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! MIND IF I SIT IN?
OH... HELLO!
SORRY.. THE GAME'S MADE UP!
OFFICERS' CLUB
'EVENING, CAPTAIN AMES! LET ME BUY YOU A DRINK!
DON'T BOTHER, DUMONTE! I'M FUSSY ABOUT WHO BUYS ME A DRINK!
OFFICERS' CLUB
WHAT IS THIS? YOU'RE KIDDING, AREN'T YOU? SET 'EM UP, TONY!
YES, SIR...
FORGET IT TONY! I'M NOT DRINKING WITH DUMONTE, AND NEITHER WILL ANY OTHER OFFICER!
DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY?
IT'S A PLEASURE! DUMONTE, YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE O.C.S. ... AND TO THE UNIFORM ...YOU'RE A SNOB! YOU'RE CRUEL TO YOUR MEN AND ARROGANT AND CONCEITED! YOU FLAUNT YOUR RANK AS IF IT WERE A PLAYTHING TO SHOW YOU'RE THE BIG BOSS OF YOUR MEN... NOT THEIR FRIEND AND ADVISOR!
YOUR MEN HATE YOU...AND YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS THINK YOU'RE A LOUSE! HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW, CAPTAIN DUMONTE?
I'LL TELL YOU HOW I FEEL! I'M DOING MY JOB AND DOING IT MY OWN WAY! I'LL THANK YOU GENTLEMEN TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
WHAT AN OAF! HE'S GOT THE SMARTEST ENGINEER IN THE ARMY IN HIS OUTFIT, AND HE TREATS HIM LIKE DIRT!
YOU MEAN HENNESSEY! A VERY GOOD MAN! I'VE TRIED TO GET HIM FOR MY COMPANY, BUT HE WON'T LEAVE HIS OWN OUTFIT!
SLAM!
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL LEAVES ARE CANCELLED! THIS ROAD PROBLEM'S GOING TO BE SOLVED IN RECORD TIME OR I'LL KNOW THE REASON WHY! I DON'T CARE IF EVERY MAN DROPS IN HIS TRACKS... BUT THE ROAD WILL BE BUILT!
THE GUY'S SICK IN THE HEAD! HE'S DRIVING US LIKE GALLEY SLAVES! I'D LIKE TO...
SO WOULD I, HARRY! I WONDER NOW WHAT I EVER SAW IN HIM AS A FRIEND! BUT GRIPING WON'T DO ANY GOOD! HE'S STILL OUR C.O.!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, HENNESSEY? HE TREATS YOU WORSE THAN ANY OF THE REST OF US, AND YET YOU TAKE IT WITHOUT A SQUAWK! WHAT'S HE GOT ON YOU...OR ARE YOU JUST PLAIN YELLOW?
YELLOW? WHY... I'LL SHOW YOU HOW YELLOW I AM...


STOP IT! SERGEANT, BREAK THAT UP AND ARREST CORPORAL HENNESSEY!
CORP..? YES, SIR!
WELL, CORPORAL, I MUST SAY THIS IS A FINE STATE OF AFFAIRS! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE A ROUGH-NECK, BUT THEN, YOU NEVER CAN TELL, CAN YOU? IN CIVILIAN LIFE YOU HELD A HIGH POSITION AND MANAGED TO CONCEAL YOUR HOODLUM TRAITS...BUT THE ARMY BRINGS OUT OUR REAL SELVES, DOESN'T IT!
I GUESS IT DOES, CAPTAIN! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
NOTHING, CORPORAL! I JUST WANTED YOU TO REALIZE THAT WE'VE EACH ATTAINED OUR PROPER PLACES IN LIFE! YOU'RE AN ENLISTED MAN, CORPORAL HENNESSEY, AND I'M YOUR SUPERIOR! NEVER FORGET THAT!
I'M NOT LIABLE TO! NOT WITH YOU ALWAYS POUNDING IT INTO MY HEAD! BUT THIS WAR ISN'T GOING TO LAST FOR EVER! MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE IT TO..THEN THERE'LL BE A FEW CHANGES! CAPTAIN! AM I DIS-MISSED NOW, SIR?
MAJOR DUMONTE, YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB WITH YOUR CORP! YES, THAT'S RIGHT! "MAJOR!" THE ORDER FOR YOUR PROMOTION CAME TODAY, AND SOMETHING ELSE CAME TOO... YOUR SAILING ORDERS!
IT'S A GREAT HONOR, COLONEL, BOTH THE PROMOTION AND THE ORDERS! WHERE DO WE GO?
MAJOR, YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE COMPANY ARE GOING TO AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC CALLED FABAI! THERE YOUR FIRST JOB WILL BE TO BUILD A VERY IMPORTANT AIR PORT! IT'S VITALLY NEEDED...AND YOU AND YOUR BOYS ARE THE ONES WHO CAN DO IT! GOOD LUCK, MAJOR DUMONTE!
THANK YOU, COLONEL HAYES! I'LL DO MY BEST!
THIS IS GETTING BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER! NOW I CAN SHOW THEM ALL HOW GOOD I CAN BE! I'LL BE ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF THIS WAR! HA, MR. ART. HENNESSEY...AND WHAT WILL YOU BE? JUST ONE OF THE MEN...ONE OF THE MEN UNDER ME! NOW WHO'S THE BOSS?
THREE DAYS LATER, COMPANY B OF THE ENGINEER CORPS, SAILED FOR DESTINATION: SOUTH PACIFIC...
WOW! LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING RIGHT INTO THE HEAT OF THE COMBAT AREA!
IT'S ABOUT TIME..I ONLY WISH I WAS GOING THERE AS A FOOT SOLDIER WITH A CARBINE IN MY HANDS!
WATCH IT! HERE COMES OLD MOTHER HUBBARD!
AT EASE, MEN! THIS IS NO PICNIC WE'RE GOING ON! THIS IS THE TIME TO PUT INTO EFFECT ALL THE THINGS WE LEARNED BACK AT THE TRAINING BASE! FROM NOW ON IT'S WORK! WORK! WORK! NO HEMMING, NO HAWING! WORK AND NOTHING BUT WORK! I WON'T TOLERATE ANY LAXITY ON THE PART OF ANY ONE MAN! THERE'LL BE NO FAVORITISM! I HOPE YOU ALL UNDERSTAND ME!

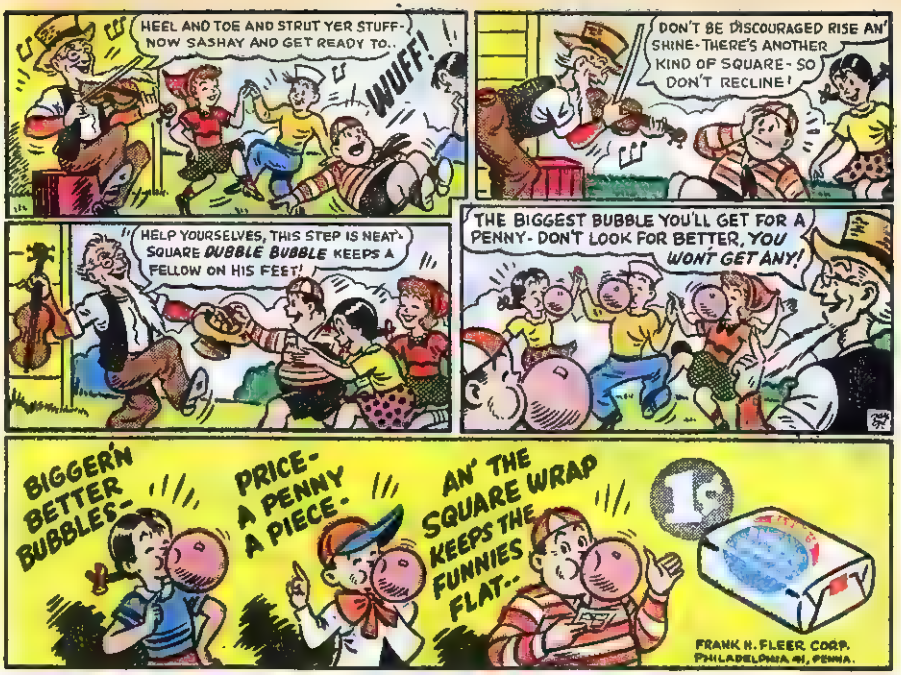

OH YES... AND ANOTHER THING... WE'VE GOT ONE OR TWO TECHNICAL NON-COMS IN THIS OUTFIT! I DON'T WANT ANY OF THEM TO FORGET WHO'S THE REAL BOSS HERE! I'M IN CHARGE AND I'LL STAND FOR NO OVER-AMBITIOUS EAGER-BEAVER GETTING ANY IDEAS THAT HE'S BIGGER THAN I AM! AS YOU WERE!
HE MEANS YOU, ART! I SWEAR I'LL...
EASY, FELLA! IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD!
SAY, WERE YOU HIS BOSS IN CIVILIAN DAYS? IS HE TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH YOU NOW?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT! ANYWAY WE'RE ALL SOLDIERS IN ONE ARMY NOW! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET PERSONAL FEELINGS COME INTO IT!
WELL, IF HE'S A SOLDIER, HE'S GOTTA PROVE IT TO ME!
FABAI ISLAND! AND THE BUILDING OF THE AIRPORT WITH THE MEN WORKING UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF JAPANESE PLANES...
SO THIS IS FABAI ISLAND! I'LL TAKE CONEY!
YOU BET! AT LEAST THERE ARE GALS AROUND! ALL YOU SEE HERE ARE EACH OTHER AND LOUD MOUTH DUMONTE!
CAPTAIN DUMONTE, SIR! MAY I HAVE A WORD?
OH! IT'S YOU, HENNESSEY! IS YOUR WORK ALL FINISHED TO HAVE THIS TIME TO DAWDLE? WHAT IS IT? I'M VERY BUSY! SPEAK UP!
YES, SIR! IT'S ABOUT THE RUNWAY ON THE AIR STRIP, SIR! I'M AFRAID THAT THE WAY WE'RE BUILDING IT, IT WON'T BE STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE BIGGER PLANES THAT WILL COME IN TO LAND! NOW... I HAVE A SUGGESTION THAT...
JUST A MINUTE CORPORAL!
YOU'RE FORGETTING A FEW THINGS! THE FIRST IS... I'M THE BOSS HERE... NOT YOU! SECONDLY... I'M A BETTER ENGINEER THAN YOU! THAT'S WHY I'M IN COMMAND AND YOU'RE NOT! THIRD... IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS IN THE FIRST PLACE! THAT'S ALL, CORPORAL! BACK TO YOUR WORK!
BUT SIR... I... YES, SIR!
THAT NIGHT...
IF YOU SAY THE RUNWAY IS WEAK... THEN IT'S WEAK! WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, ART?
IT'S GOT TO BE REINFORCED! REPLACE THE WEAK FOUNDATION BLOCKS WITH STRONGER ONES... BUT BE QUIET! THIS IS AGAINST ORDERS, BUT IF OUR BIG PLANES TRY TO LAND HERE, THEY'LL BE WRECKED!
HOLY SMOKE! WE'RE SPOTTED!
ALL RIGHT, HENNESSEY! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS! THIS ISN'T THE HAYES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY! THIS IS THE ARMY... AND I'M THE BOSS NOW! I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU! GUARD! ARREST THOSE MEN! THEY'LL FACE COURT-MARTIAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
YES, SIR!

WHO'S THE BETTER MAN NOW, ART HENNESSEY? YES, YOU ALWAYS WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF ME BUT NOT ANYMORE! I OVERSTEPPED YOU AT LAST! I'M GIVING THE ORDERS NOW! I'M THE HEAD MAN! AND YOU'RE NOTHING, HENNESSEY! NOTHING AT ALL. BUT WHAT I CHOOSE TO MAKE YOU!
THREE DAYS LATER, WITH ART AND HIS FRIENDS STILL IN THE GUARD HOUSE AWAITING COURT-MARTIAL, THE AIR-STRIP WAS FINISHED AND READY FOR ITS FIRST OPERATION!
I CONGRATULATE YOU, MAJOR! THIS WAS DONE IN RECORD TIME! I HOPE EVERYTHING FUNCTIONS PROPERLY!
OF COURSE, SIR! I KNOW MY JOB! HERE COMES THE FIRST OF THE BIG JOBS! WATCH HOW EASILY THE RUNWAY SUPPORTS IT! I'VE GOT EVERY CONFIDENCE!
ART! LOOK! THAT BIG BABY'S GONNA TRY TO TAKE OFF ON THE RUNWAY!
IT'LL NEVER MAKE IT! GUARD! TELL MAJOR DUMONTE TO WARN IT OFF! IT'LL CRASH!
I I BELIEVE YOU, ART BUT WHAT CAN I DO? YOU KNOW THE MAJOR!
CRASH!
SO, MAJOR! YOU HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE, EH? SO DID THE MEN IN THAT PLANE! AND LOOK AT THEM!
I I CAN'T UNDERSTAND! SIR! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WENT WRONG! I'LL REPAIR IT AT ONCE SIR!
YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING QUICK, DUMONTE! HERE COME THE JAPS!
OBJECTIVE JAPANESE. TO WIPE OUT THE PLANES TRAPPED ON THE ISLAND! OBJECTIVE AMERICAN TO FIGHT TO THE END AGAINST HOPELESS ODDS, THEIR OFFENSIVE SHATTERED BY A WRECKED RUNWAY, THEIR PLANES SITTING DUCKS FOR THE GUNS OF THE NIPPONS!
ALL RIGHT, MEN! GET TO IT! GET THAT RUNWAY FIXED AND STRONG ENOUGH TO SURPORT OUR PLANES! AND DO IT QUICK BEFORE WE'RE ALL WIPED OUT!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO, SIR? HOW'LL WE GO ABOUT IT? TELL US WHAT TO DO!
I I I DON'T KNOW I DON'T KNOW!
I, I'M GOING TO GET KILLED ALONG WITH THE REST OF THEM... BECAUSE I CAN'T FIX THE RUNWAY! BUT ART KNOWS HOW! HE ALWAYS KNEW HOW! AM I GOING TO LOSE MY LIFE BECAUSE OUR POSITIONS ARE CHANGED?
9


JAPANESE H.Q.
MOST HONORABLE SIRE! OUR SUPREME AIR FORCE IS AT PRESENT REDUCING THE MISERLY AMERICAN DEFENSES AT FABAI ISLAND TO SHREDS! THEIR PLANES ARE HELPLESS.. THEIR ANTI-AIR FIRE FUTILE! VICTORY IS A MATTER OF MOMENTS!
GOOD! THIS CAN BE A TURNING POINT IN THE WAR! FABAI IS THE MOST STRATEGIC ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC!
AMERICAN H.Q.
THE NEAREST CARRIERS ARE TOO FAR AWAY FROM FABAI TO GET THERE IN TIME TO HELP! THE TRAGEDY OF FABAI WILL BE WORSE THAN PEARL HARBOR!
IT CAN MEAN THE LOSS OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC! WHAT WENT WRONG? WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DISASTER?
SIR, IT'S COLONEL THOMSON! HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT'S HOLDING UP THE STRIP! WE'LL ALL BE WIPED OUT SOON!
WE'LL ALL BE WIPED OUT! EVEN ME! I'VE GOT TO DO IT! I'VE GOT TO DO THE ONE THING I HATE...BUT WHICH WILL SAVE ALL OUR LIVES!
HERE GOES ALL MY IDEAS OF RANK AND POSITION! BUT THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, SO
I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT! I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
PRIVATE, CALL THE GUARD HOUSE! TELL THEM I WANT HENNESSEY AND THE OTHERS RELEASED AT ONCE! TELL THEM TO REPORT TO ME!
YES, SIR!
IT'S ABOUT TIME HE BROKE DOWN! HE'S GOT TO DO IT! TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN, AS WELL AS OURS!
GO AHEAD BOYS! DUMONTE WANTS YOU! BUT DON'T GET IN THE WAY OF ANY JAP EGGS ON YOUR WAY OVER!
SO HE'S YELLING UNCLE EH?
WHY NOT? AS LONG AS IT'S UNCLE SAM! COME ON, GUYS! WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB TO DO! BUT QUICK!
...CK IS RIGHT! ...FACT QUICKER THAN THAT!
CONEY ISLAND WAS NEVER LIKE THIS! NOT EVEN ON MARDI GRAS NIGHT!
WHAT FIREWORKS! ONLY THIS IS FOR REAL!
CORPORAL HENNESSEY AND PRIVATES MICHAELS AND ORLATTO REPORTING, SIR! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, SIR?
MY ORDERS?
MY ORDERS, ART, ARE FOR YOU TO DO WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST! YOU'RE STILL THE BETTER MAN, BOSS! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX UP MY BUNGLING AND SAVE OUR LIVES?
I CAN TRY, PAUL!

YOU CARRY ON HERE! I'M GOING TO PICK UP A GUN AND SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO FIGHT OFF THE JAPS TILL YOU GET YOUR JOB FINISHED! THEY'LL HAVE TO GET ME BEFORE THEY STOP YOU, ART!
LET'S GO, GUYS! THE HEAVY BLOCKS, BRING 'EM UP! JACK UP THE FULL RUNWAY, SCOOT OVER A LOAD OF FRESH PLANKS! HOP TO IT! THOSE HAWKS UP THERE AREN'T FOOLING!
MAJOR DUMONTE FACED THE FIRE OF THE ENEMY STRAFING, TRYING TO BLOCK THE LABORING ENGINEERS WITH HIS BODY! INSPIRED BY HIS HEROISM, SOLDIERS RUSHED TO THEIR STAND BESIDE HIM!
C'MON! LET'S HELP THE MAJOR!
HOLY SMOKE! I NEVER KNEW HE HAD IT IN HIM!
ALL RIGHT, YOU FLOP-EARED DEVILS! IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, COME AND GET IT!
HURRY IT UP! THEY CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER!
HOW'S IT GOING, BOSS?
JUST A LITTLE WHILE MORE, MAJOR! JUST A LITTLE WHILE MORE!
OKAY! LET 'ER RIP!
SEND UP OUR FIGHTER PLANES, CAPTAIN BAYNE! THE RUNWAY IS READY AND WAITING!
ROGER!
YIPPEE! THERE THEY GO!
AS SAFE AND SURE AS IF IN THEIR MOTHER'S ARMS!
GIVE 'EM THE OLD ONE-TWO, BOYS!
AND BELOW... TWO MEN WATCH!
THEY'RE DOING IT, PAUL!
YOU BET! THANKS TO YOU! YOU'RE STILL THE BETTER ENGINEER, ART, AND I WAS A FOOL TO THINK ANYTHING ELSE!
IT'S OVER! THE ENEMY IS ROUTED AND OUR PLANES ARE COMING BACK!
LET 'EM COME! THAT RUNWAY IS STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ANYTHING! RIGHT, ART?
RIGHT, PAUL!

AT JAPANESE H.Q...
AIEEE! WOE AFTER WOE! THE INFERIOR AMERICANS VANQUISHED OUR NOBLE AIR FORCE! WHAT SHALL I TELL OUR MOST EXALTED EMPEROR?
YOU CAN TELL HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY ANYTHING YOU PLEASE, MOST VENERABLE GENERAL! I AM COMMITTING HARA-KIRI!
FOR GALLANTRY AND BRAVERY IN ACTION OVER AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY, IT IS MY HONOR TO BESTOW THIS MEDAL OF VALOR UPON YOU, MAJOR PAUL DUMONTE!
THANK YOU, GENERAL HAYES! I SHALL ACCEPT IT BUT
.. ONLY ON BEHALF OF MY FRIEND, CORP ARTHUR HENNESSEY, TO WHOM IT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS! HE TAUGHT ME A LESSON IN HOW TO BE A SOLDIER THAT I SHALL NEVER FORGET!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MAJOR! AND I HAVE A MEDAL FOR CORP HENNESSEY, ALSO!
THE WAR HAS BEEN OVER A LONG TIME NOW! AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES SINCE THEN.. BUT NOT IN THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE TWO MEN..
THIS BUILDING BEING ERECTED BY DUMONTE & HENNESSEY CONSTRUCTION CO.
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THE BOSS?
SURE, RIGHT OVER THERE THE GUY WHO ISN'T DIGGING!
DO IT RIGHT, BOYS! DO IT FAST... BUT DO IT RIGHT!
OKAY, ART! ANYTHING YOU SAY, CHIEF! YOU'RE STILL THE BOSS!
THE END


HEEL AND TOE AND STRUT YER STUFF- NOW SASHAY AND GET READY TO..
WUFF!
DON'T BE DISCOURAGED RISE AN' SHINE- THERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF SQUARE- SO DON'T RECLINE!
HELP YOURSELVES, THIS STEP IS NEAT- SQUARE BUBBLE BUBBLE KEEPS A FELLOW ON HIS FEET!
THE BIGGEST BUBBLE YOU'LL GET FOR A PENNY- DON'T LOOK FOR BETTER, YOU WON'T GET ANY!
BIGGER'N BETTER BUBBLES-
PRICE- A PENNY A PIECE-
AN' THE SQUARE WRAP KEEPS THE FUNNIES FLAT--
1¢
FRANK H. FLEER CORP. PHILADELPHIA 41, PENNA.

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Name .....
Address .....
City .....State .....

GERRY HOBBS *HAD* TO DECIDE... SHOULD HE *MURDER HIS FRIEND?* DON'T MISS THIS GRIPPING STORY OF A MAN WITH A TWISTED MIND... A MAN WHO BECAME...

THE FALLEN HERO!

GERRY, IF YOU TAKE ME IN, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT IT'LL DO TO HELEN, AND TO MY SON?
SORRY, STEVE! I'VE TAKEN ENOUGH FROM YOU BECAUSE OF HELEN AND THE KID... BUT THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR! PUT UP YOUR HANDS!
WAREHOUSE
J.B. TRUCKING COMPANY
THIS MAN COMICS THRILLER IS TOLD EXACTLY THE WAY IT HAPPENED... NOTHING ADDED, NOTHING TAKEN AWAY, NOTHING CHANGED!
IN THE EYES OF HIS SON, STEVE DUGAN WAS A HERO! GERRY HOBBS KNEW THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO DESTROY THE BOY'S BELIEF IN HIS FATHER, IT WOULD BREAK THE LAD'S HEART! AND YET, GERRY WAS A COP... AND STEVE WOULD ONE DAY HAVE TO BE A *FALLEN* HERO!
7443

MOST OF US, IN THE HURRY OF LIVING, OF ATTAINING OUR INDIVIDUAL GOALS, TAKE A LOT OF THINGS FOR GRANTED / WHEN WE'RE SICK WE CALL A DOCTOR...WE KNOW HE'LL BE THERE / WHEN THERE'S TROUBLE WE CALL A POLICEMAN. HE'LL BE THERE, TOO / THEN...WHEN OUR ILLNESS AND TROUBLE ARE ALL OVER WE FORGET THESE PEOPLE, RELEGATE THEM TO A FORGOTTEN PART OF OUR MINDS. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME / ESPECIALLY THE POLICE. WE FORGET THEM TOO EASILY /

I KNOW HOW IT IS, BECAUSE I'M A COP MYSELF! AND THERE ARE THINGS A COP DOES THAT AREN'T ALWAYS IN THE RECORD... THERE ARE THINGS WE SEE AND KNOW THAT WE DON'T ALWAYS TELL ABOUT! SOMETIMES IT'S BEST THAT WAY! TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE HURT IF THEY KNEW! YOU SEE, COPS ARE HUMAN AFTER ALL!

TODAY I'M A LIEUTENANT OF DETECTIVES, BUT SIXTEEN YEARS AGO I WAS JUST A ROOKIE ON THE POLICE FORCE, ANXIOUS TO MAKE GOOD, AND PROUD OF MY BLUE UNIFORM THE FIRST TIME I WORE IT TO SHOW TO MY BEST GIRL, HELEN O'MAHANEY...

GERRY, YOU LOOK WONDERFUL! YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD POLICEMAN!

I HOPE SO, HELEN! I'M A HAPPY MAN TODAY! BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT WOULD MAKE ME MUCH HAPPIER!... THAT'S IF YOU'LL SAY THAT YOU'LL BE MRS. OFFICER GERALD BLAINE!

GERRY... DON'T! I THINK A LOT OF YOU... BUT...

...BUT THERE'S STEVE DUGAN, TOO, ISN'T THERE?

RIGHT GERRY, OLD PAL! STEVE DUGAN IT IS IN PERSON!

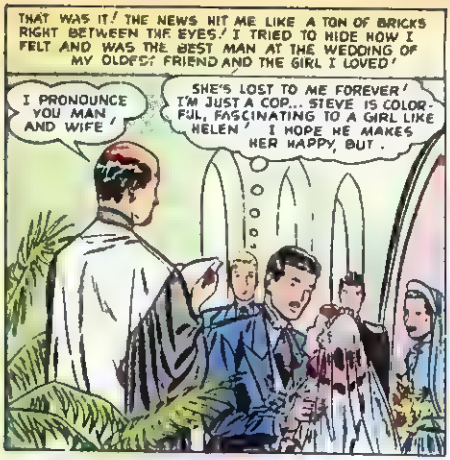
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING WHEN TWO LIFE-LONG FRIENDS LIKE YOU AND I HAVE TO BE IN LOVE WITH THE SAME GIRL, STEVE / ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE CAN'T MAKE UP HER MIND AS TO WHICH ONE SHE WANTS!

AH / THERE'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, GERRY! HELEN HAS MADE UP HER MIND / HAVEN'T YOU, SWEETHEART?

HELEN — NO

IT'S TRUE, GERRY! STEVE AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEEK! YOU'RE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

WILL YOU WISH US LUCK, GERRY? WE WANT YOU TO BE OUR BEST MAN!


THAT WAS IT! THE NEWS HIT ME LIKE A TON OF BRICKS RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES! I TRIED TO HIDE HOW I FELT AND WAS THE BEST MAN AT THE WEDDING OF MY OLDEST FRIEND AND THE GIRL I LOVED!
I PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
SHE'S LOST TO ME FOREVER! I'M JUST A COP... STEVE IS COLORFUL, FASCINATING TO A GIRL LIKE HELEN! I HOPE HE MAKES HER HAPPY, BUT.

AFTER THE WEDDING.. AT THE RECEPTION..
STEVE, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU A MOMENT?
SURE, PAL! COME INTO THE OTHER ROOM!
HURRY BACK, DARLING! I DON'T WANT YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR A MOMENT!

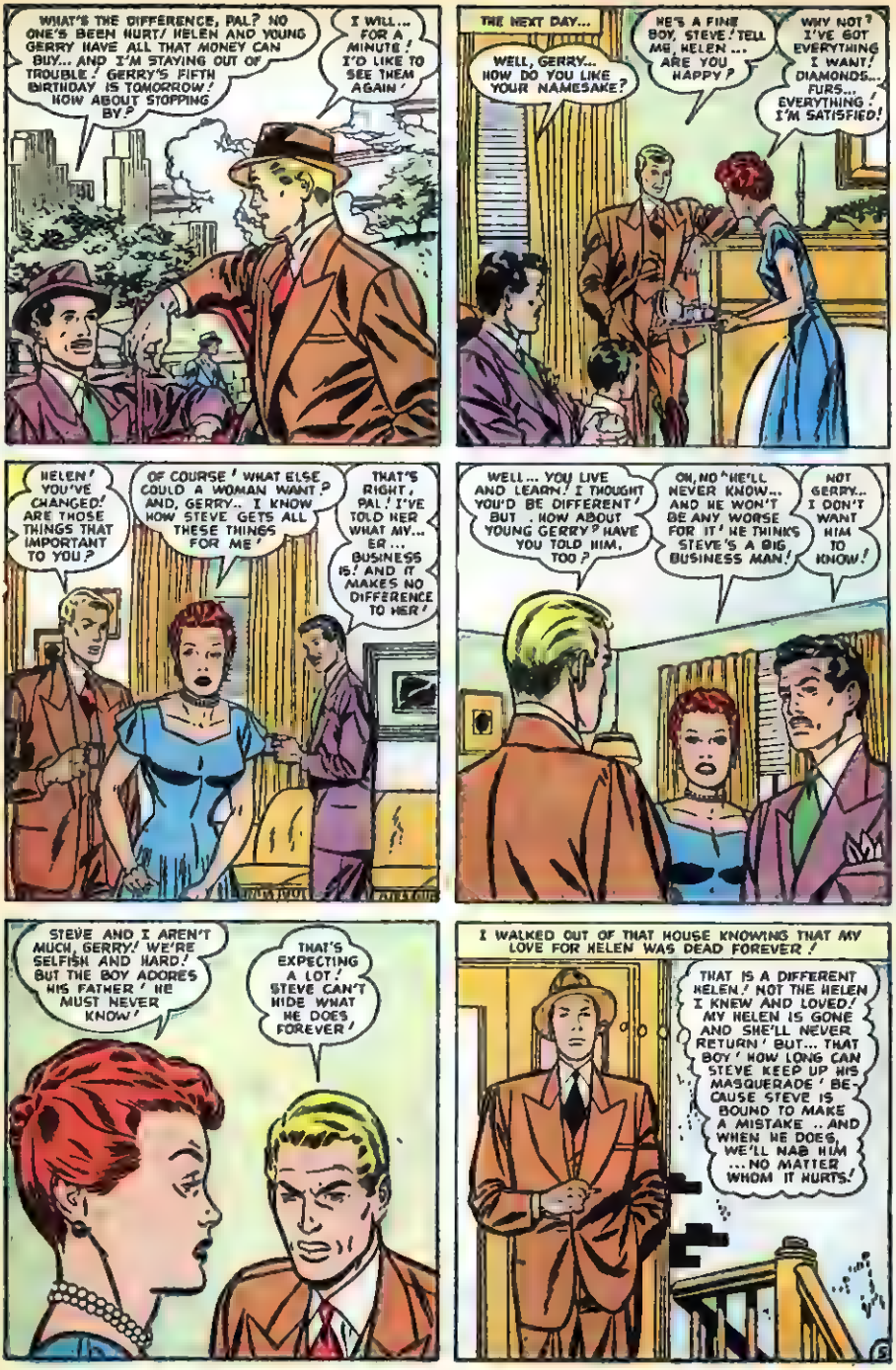
OKAY, PAL.. SHOOT! GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY, STEVE! I STILL LOVE HELEN AND I ALWAYS WILL! NOTHING CAN STOP THAT! MOST OF ALL, THOUGH, I WANT HER TO BE HAPPY... AND IF HAVING YOU WILL MAKE HER SO, THAT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME! BUT, STEVE.. YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE SHE WILL BE HAPPY!

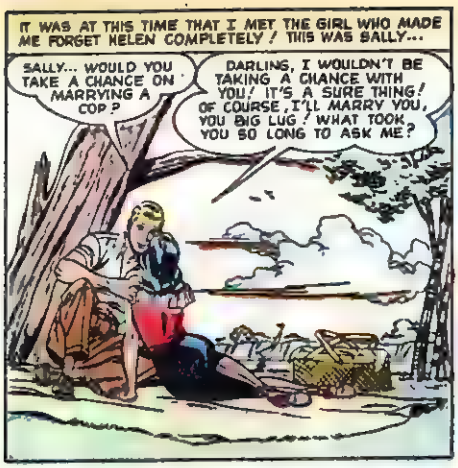
WHY.. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE WON'T?
DON'T HEDGE WITH ME! I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, STEVE.. YOU'RE MIXED UP WITH THE THREE-POINTS MOB. YOU'RE A SPOTTER FOR THEIR HI-JACKING RACKET! THAT'S GOING TO LEAD TO TROUBLE AND MISERY FOR HELEN!

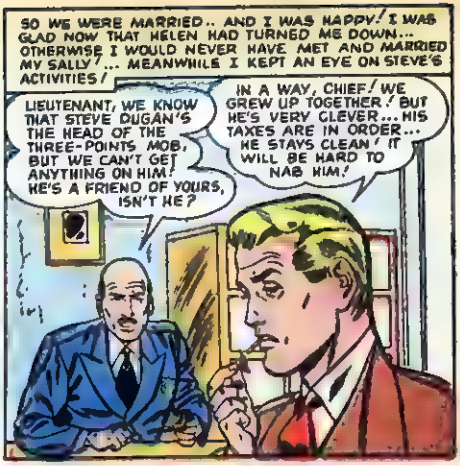
OH, LAY OFF IT, PAL! THIS IS MY WEDDING DAY! BESIDES, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON ME!
NO.. NOT YET! BUT I'M WARNING YOU! GET OUT AND GO STRAIGHT.. FOR HELEN'S SAKE. AND YOUR OWN! IF YOU REALLY LOVE HER, YOU'LL REALIZE WHAT THAT KIND OF A LIFE CAN DO TO HER! SOME DAY I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU!
STEVE ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN THERE ALL DAY?

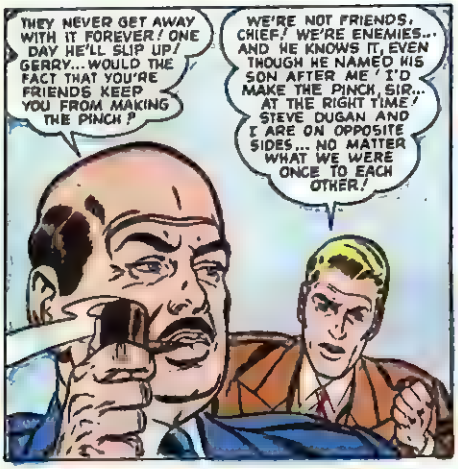
SO I LEFT STEVE AND HELEN IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS. AND I WENT BACK TO POUNDING MY BEAT.. JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THE CITY'S HUNDREDS OF COPS! A YEAR WENT BY
KEEP A SHARP EYE, BLAINE! WE'VE GOT A TIP THAT THE THREE-POINTS GANG IS ON THE PROWL IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!
RIGHT, SARGE! I THOUGHT THEY'D BEEN TOO QUIET LATELY! THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING HERE!

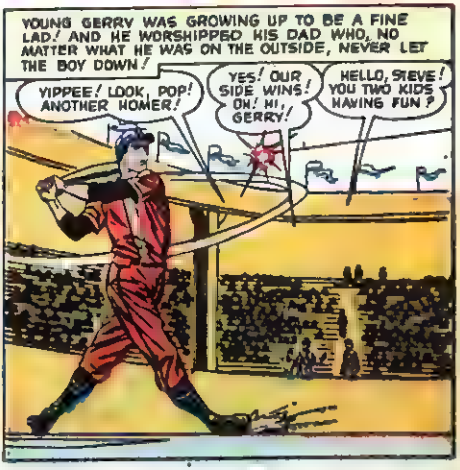
BUT THAT NIGHT, AS I WENT INTO AN ALLEY BEHIND THE APEX FUR COMPANY BUILDING...
COPS! STEP ON IT! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!
BUT THEY WERE GONE, THE TRUCK SPEEDING AWAY BEFORE I COULD EVEN FIRE! THEN... I SAW HIM!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR BUDDIES RAN OUT ON YOU, STEVE!
GERRY!!... THE DIRTY RATS THEY LEFT ME COLD!
I TOLD YOU I'D CATCH UP WITH YOU IF YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP THE GANG! MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY... IT MIGHT AS WELL HAPPEN NOW... SO HELEN CAN GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE! I'M TAKING YOU IN, STEVE!
GERRY... YOU CAN'T! FOR HELEN'S SAKE... YOU CAN'T ... NOT NOW--
GERRY-- HELEN'S GOING TO BE A MOTHER SOON! THIS WOULD KILL HER!
HELEN... A MOTHER! A FINE FATHER SHE PICKED FOR HER BABY! ALL RIGHT, STEVE! GO TO HER! BUT... I'M WARNING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME... AS LONG AS YOU STICK TO THE RACKETS, YOU AND I ARE SWORN ENEMIES! REMEMBER THAT! AND ONE DAY I WON'T TURN YOU LOOSE LIKE THIS AGAIN!
HELEN'S BABY WAS A BOY... A FINE, BEAUTIFUL CHILD! I WENT TO VISIT THEM AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS...
ISN'T HE WONDERFUL, GERRY! WE'RE GOING TO NAME HIM AFTER YOU!
YOU .. YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT!
WHY NOT, PAL? WE OWE YOU A LOT, YOU KNOW! AN AWFUL LOT!
I LOVE HELEN, GERRY... AND I LOVE THE BABY.. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK SO BECAUSE OF WHAT I DO! I'M A GOOD HUSBAND AND FATHER, PAL... BELIEVE ME!
WORDS! YOU'RE A CROOK, STEVE! IF YOU LOVED THEM, YOU WOULD NOT ASK THEM TO SHARE YOUR KIND OF LIFE! WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU'RE BRINGING IT ON YOURSELF... AND YOUR FAMILY!
STEVE WAS CLEVER, THOUGH! HE STAYED OUT OF THE WAY OF THE LAW AND BECAME ONE OF THE BIG SHOTS OF THE GANG! I KNEW HE WAS MIXED UP WITH THE RACKETS, BUT EVEN I COULDN'T GET ANYTHING ON HIM! -- THEN ... FIVE YEARS LATER...
HELLO, PAL! YOU'VE GOT A PROMOTION, EH?
YES, STEVE! I'M A DETECTIVE NOW! OF COURSE I'M NOT DOING AS WELL AS YOU ARE! STILL PLAYING IT CLOSE TO THE EDGE, AREN'T YOU?

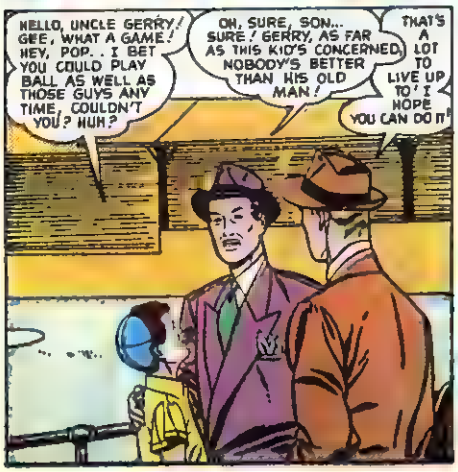

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, PAL? NO ONE'S BEEN HURT/ HELEN AND YOUNG GERRY HAVE ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY... AND I'M STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE! GERRY'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY IS TOMORROW! HOW ABOUT STOPPING BY?
I WILL... FOR A MINUTE! I'D LIKE TO SEE THEM AGAIN!
THE NEXT DAY...
WELL, GERRY... HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NAMESAKE?
HE'S A FINE BOY, STEVE! TELL ME, HELEN ... ARE YOU HAPPY?
WHY NOT? I'VE GOT EVERYTHING I WANT! DIAMONDS... FURS... EVERYTHING! I'M SATISFIED!
HELEN! YOU'VE CHANGED! ARE THOSE THINGS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
OF COURSE! WHAT ELSE COULD A WOMAN WANT? AND, GERRY.. I KNOW HOW STEVE GETS ALL THESE THINGS FOR ME!
THAT'S RIGHT, PAL! I'VE TOLD HER WHAT MY... ER... BUSINESS IS! AND IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO HER!
WELL... YOU LIVE AND LEARN! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE DIFFERENT! BUT . HOW ABOUT YOUNG GERRY? HAVE YOU TOLD HIM, TOO?
OH, NO! HE'LL NEVER KNOW... AND HE WON'T BE ANY WORSE FOR IT! HE THINKS STEVE'S A BIG BUSINESS MAN!
NOT GERRY... I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW!
STEVE AND I AREN'T MUCH, GERRY! WE'RE SELFISH AND HARD! BUT THE BOY ADORES HIS FATHER! HE MUST NEVER KNOW!
THAT'S EXPECTING A LOT! STEVE CAN'T HIDE WHAT HE DOES, FOREVER!
I WALKED OUT OF THAT HOUSE KNOWING THAT MY LOVE FOR HELEN WAS DEAD FOREVER!
THAT IS A DIFFERENT HELEN! NOT THE HELEN I KNEW AND LOVED! MY HELEN IS GONE AND SHE'LL NEVER RETURN! BUT... THAT BOY! HOW LONG CAN STEVE KEEP UP HIS MASQUERADE! BECAUSE STEVE IS BOUND TO MAKE A MISTAKE .. AND WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL NAB HIM ... NO MATTER WHOM IT HURTS!
5


IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT I MET THE GIRL WHO MADE ME FORGET HELEN COMPLETELY / THIS WAS SALLY...
SALLY... WOULD YOU TAKE A CHANCE ON MARRYING A COP ?
DARLING, I WOULDN'T BE TAKING A CHANCE WITH YOU! IT'S A SURE THING! OF COURSE, I'LL MARRY YOU, YOU BIG LUG! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO ASK ME?

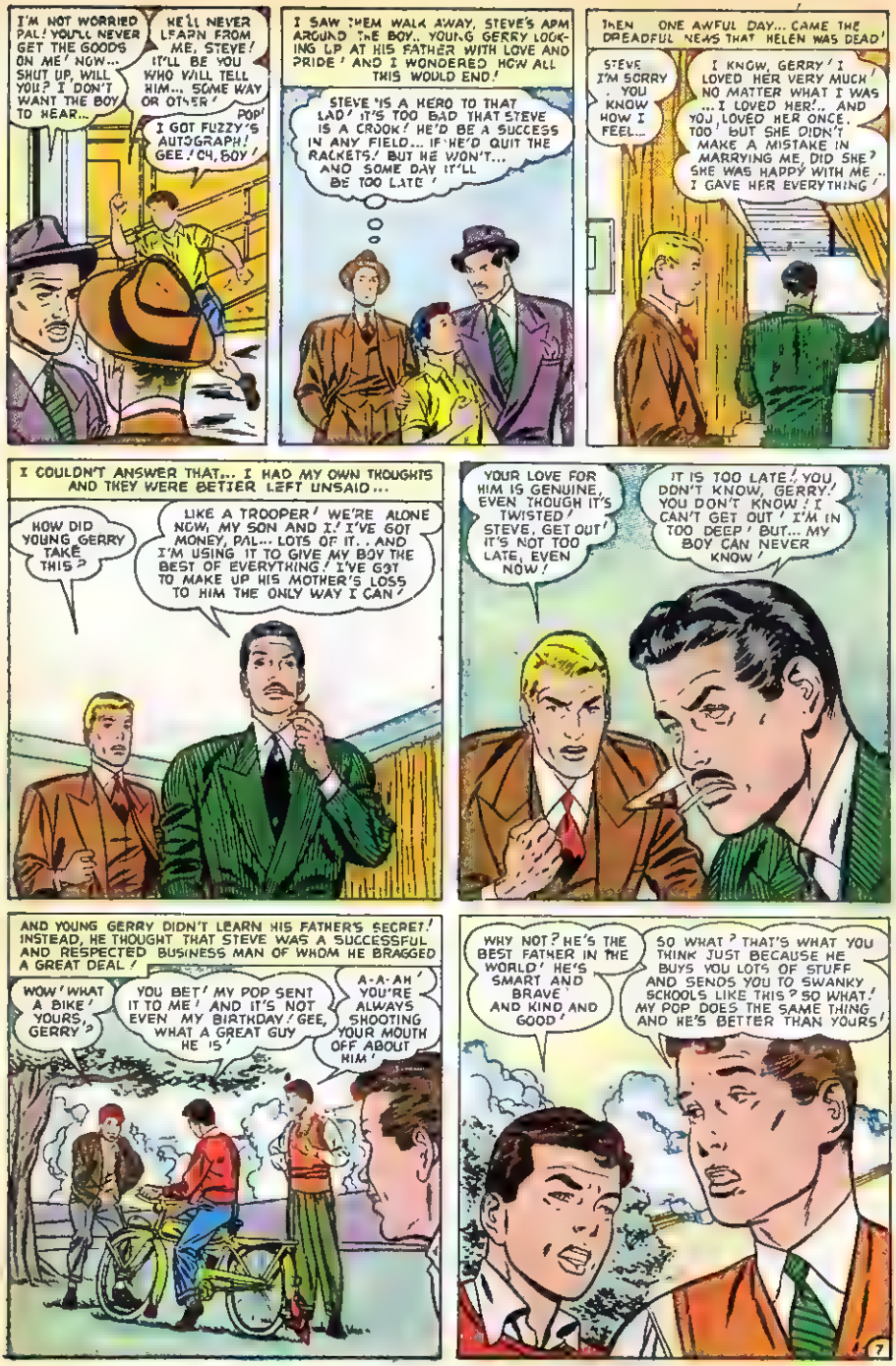

SO WE WERE MARRIED.. AND I WAS HAPPY! I WAS GLAD NOW THAT HELEN HAD TURNED ME DOWN... OTHERWISE I WOULD NEVER HAVE MET AND MARRIED MY SALLY?... MEANWHILE I KEPT AN EYE ON STEVE'S ACTIVITIES /
LIEUTENANT, WE KNOW THAT STEVE DUGAN'S THE HEAD OF THE THREE-POINTS MOB, BUT WE CAN'T GET ANYTHING ON HIM! HE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS, ISN'T HE?
IN A WAY, CHIEF! WE GREW UP TOGETHER! BUT HE'S VERY CLEVER... HIS TAXES ARE IN ORDER... HE STAYS CLEAN! IT WILL BE HARD TO NAB HIM!


THEY NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT FOREVER! ONE DAY HE'LL SLIP UP! GERRY... WOULD THE FACT THAT YOU'RE FRIENDS KEEP YOU FROM MAKING THE PINCH ?
WE'RE NOT FRIENDS, CHIEF! WE'RE ENEMIES... AND HE KNOWS IT, EVEN THOUGH HE NAMED HIS SON AFTER ME! I'D MAKE THE PINCH, SIR... AT THE RIGHT TIME! STEVE DUGAN AND I ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES... NO MATTER WHAT WE WERE ONCE TO EACH OTHER!


YOUNG GERRY WAS GROWING UP TO BE A FINE LAD! AND HE WORSHIPPED HIS DAD WHO, NO MATTER WHAT HE WAS ON THE OUTSIDE, NEVER LET THE BOY DOWN!
YIPPEE! LOOK, POP! ANOTHER HOMER!
YES! OUR SIDE WINS! OH! HI, GERRY!
HELLO, STEVE! YOU TWO KIDS HAVING FUN ?

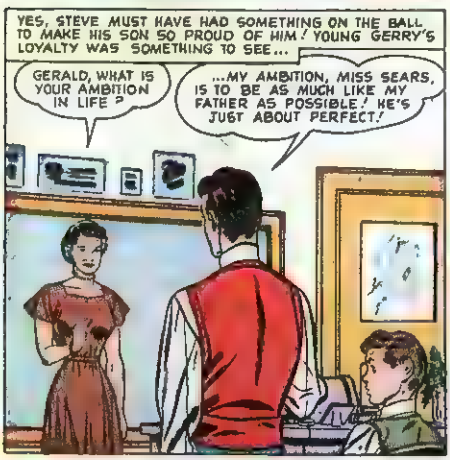

HELLO, UNCLE GERRY! GEE, WHAT A GAME! HEY, POP.. I BET YOU COULD PLAY BALL AS WELL AS THOSE GUYS ANY TIME, COULDN'T YOU? HUH?
OH, SURE, SON... SURE! GERRY, AS FAR AS THIS KID'S CONCERNED, NOBODY'S BETTER THAN HIS OLD MAN!
THAT'S A LOT TO LIVE UP TO! I HOPE YOU CAN DO IT!

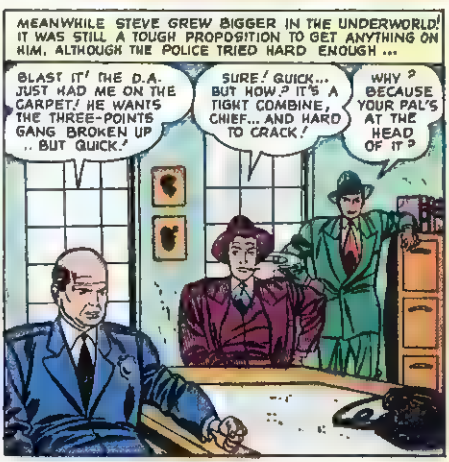
I MAKE SURE OF THAT! HE GOES TO THE BEST SCHOOL... I KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ANYONE OR ANYTHING THAT COULD GIVE ME AWAY! I DON'T WANT THAT BOY HURT! I DON'T WANT HIM HURT, GERRY!
THEN WHY DO YOU STICK TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE'RE WISE TO YOU, STEVE! ONE DAY WE'LL NAB YOU!


I'M NOT WORRIED PAL! YOU'LL NEVER GET THE GOODS ON ME! NOW... SHUT UP, WILL YOU? I DON'T WANT THE BOY TO HEAR...
HE'LL NEVER LEARN FROM ME, STEVE! IT'LL BE YOU WHO WILL TELL HIM... SOME WAY OR OTHER!
POP! I GOT FUZZY'S AUTOGRAPH! GEE! OH, BOY!
I SAW THEM WALK AWAY, STEVE'S ARM AROUND THE BOY.. YOUNG GERRY LOOKING UP AT HIS FATHER WITH LOVE AND PRIDE! AND I WONDERED HOW ALL THIS WOULD END!
STEVE IS A HERO TO THAT LAD! IT'S TOO BAD THAT STEVE IS A CROOK! HE'D BE A SUCCESS IN ANY FIELD... IF HE'D QUIT THE RACKETS! BUT HE WON'T... AND SOME DAY IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
THEN ONE AWFUL DAY... CAME THE DREADFUL NEWS THAT HELEN WAS DEAD!
STEVE I'M SORRY. YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL...
I KNOW, GERRY! I LOVED HER VERY MUCH NO MATTER WHAT I WAS ... I LOVED HER!.. AND YOU LOVED HER ONCE, TOO! BUT SHE DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE IN MARRYING ME, DID SHE? SHE WAS HAPPY WITH ME.. I GAVE HER EVERYTHING!
I COULDN'T ANSWER THAT... I HAD MY OWN THOUGHTS AND THEY WERE BETTER LEFT UNSAID...
HOW DID YOUNG GERRY TAKE THIS?
LIKE A TROOPER! WE'RE ALONE NOW, MY SON AND I! I'VE GOT MONEY, PAL... LOTS OF IT.. AND I'M USING IT TO GIVE MY BOY THE BEST OF EVERYTHING! I'VE GOT TO MAKE UP HIS MOTHER'S LOSS TO HIM THE ONLY WAY I CAN!
YOUR LOVE FOR HIM IS GENUINE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S TWISTED! STEVE, GET OUT! IT'S NOT TOO LATE, EVEN NOW!
IT IS TOO LATE! YOU DON'T KNOW, GERRY! YOU DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T GET OUT! I'M IN TOO DEEP! BUT... MY BOY CAN NEVER KNOW!
AND YOUNG GERRY DIDN'T LEARN HIS FATHER'S SECRET! INSTEAD, HE THOUGHT THAT STEVE WAS A SUCCESSFUL AND RESPECTED BUSINESS MAN OF WHOM HE BRAGGED A GREAT DEAL!
WOW! WHAT A BIKE! YOURS, GERRY?
YOU BET! MY POP SENT IT TO ME! AND IT'S NOT EVEN MY BIRTHDAY! GEE, WHAT A GREAT GUY HE IS!
A-A-AH! YOU'RE ALWAYS SHOOTING YOUR MOUTH OFF ABOUT HIM!
WHY NOT? HE'S THE BEST FATHER IN THE WORLD! HE'S SMART AND BRAVE AND KIND AND GOOD!
SO WHAT? THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE HE BUYS YOU LOTS OF STUFF AND SENDS YOU TO SWANKY SCHOOLS LIKE THIS? SO WHAT! MY POP DOES THE SAME THING AND HE'S BETTER THAN YOURS!
7

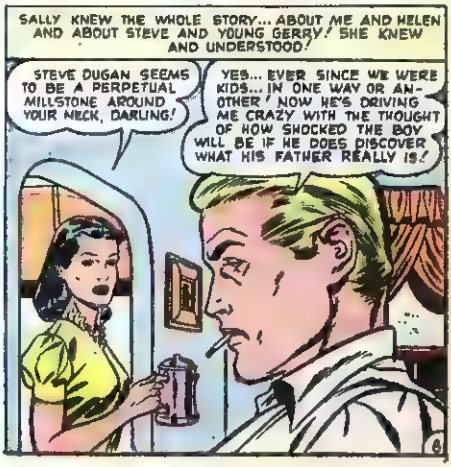
NO FATHER IS BETTER THAN MINE!
WHY... YOU...
YAY! A FIGHT! A FIGHT!
SOCK HIM, GERRY!

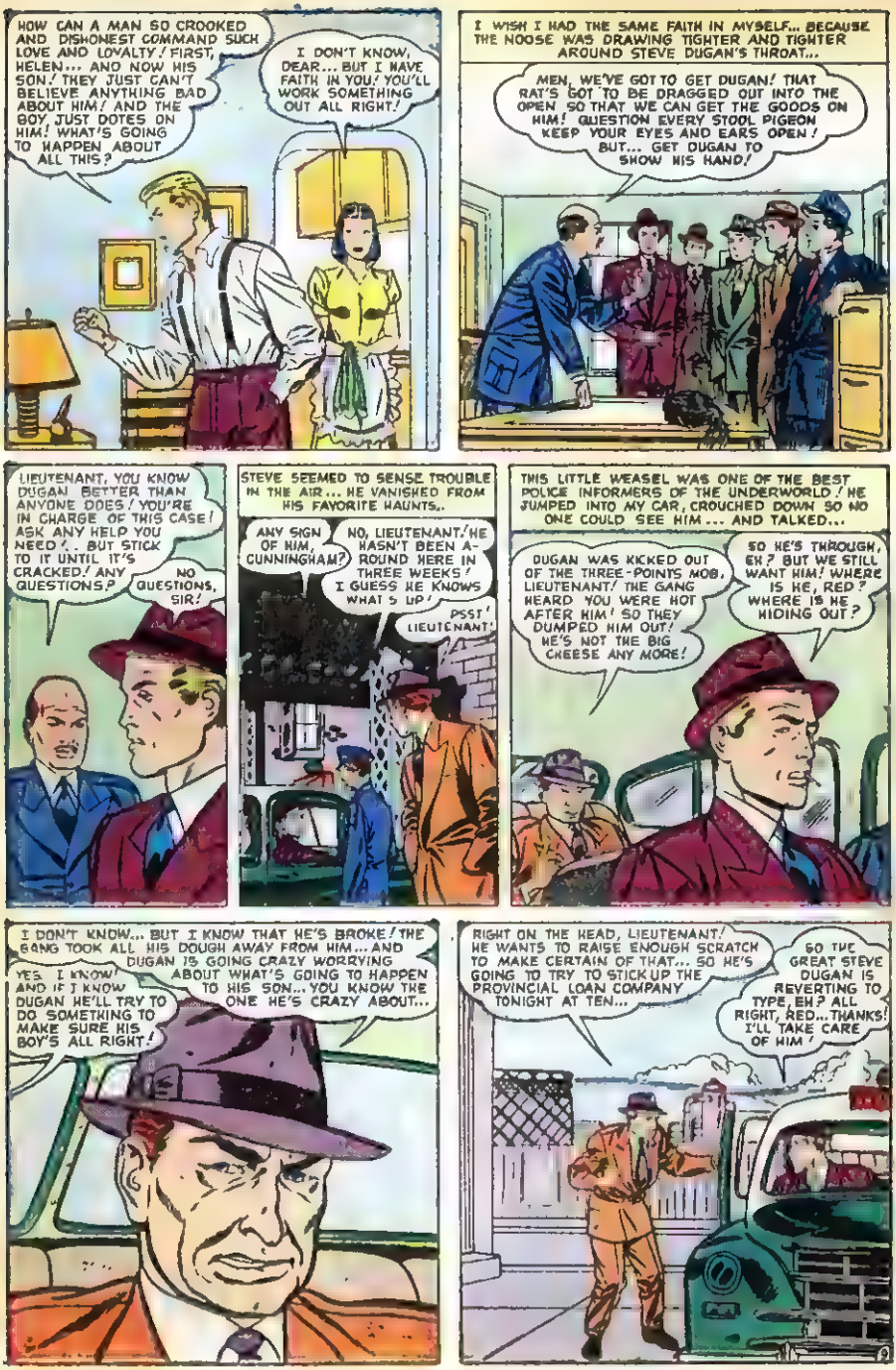
IT WAS A TOUGH LITTLE SCRAP AND YOUNG GERRY CAME OUT OF IT WITH A BLACK EYE THAT HE WORE LIKE A PROUD BADGE OF HONOR...
DON'T WORRY, POP! YOU SHOULD SEE TED! NOBODY'S GOING TO TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU AND GET AWAY WITH IT! NO, SIREE! YOU'RE MY POP AND I'M PROUD OF YOU!


YES, STEVE MUST HAVE HAD SOMETHING ON THE BALL TO MAKE HIS SON SO PROUD OF HIM! YOUNG GERRY'S LOYALTY WAS SOMETHING TO SEE...
GERALD, WHAT IS YOUR AMBITION IN LIFE?
...MY AMBITION, MISS SEARS, IS TO BE AS MUCH LIKE MY FATHER AS POSSIBLE! HE'S JUST ABOUT PERFECT!

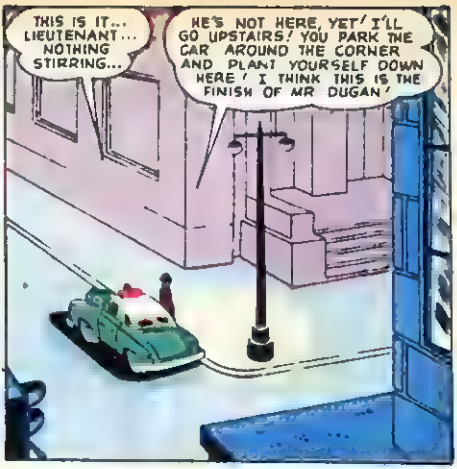

MEANWHILE STEVE GREW BIGGER IN THE UNDERWORLD! IT WAS STILL A TOUGH PROPOSITION TO GET ANYTHING ON HIM, ALTHOUGH THE POLICE TRIED HARD ENOUGH...
BLAST IT! THE D.A. JUST HAD ME ON THE CARPET! HE WANTS THE THREE-POINTS GANG BROKEN UP .. BUT QUICK!
SURE! QUICK... BUT HOW? IT'S A TIGHT COMBINE, CHIEF... AND HARD TO CRACK!
WHY? BECAUSE YOUR PAL'S AT THE HEAD OF IT?

LISTEN, JOE, I DON'T TAKE THAT FROM ANYBODY! SURE I KNOW STEVE DUGAN.. BUT HE'S NO FRIEND OF MINE! I'D NAIL HIM TODAY... IF I KNEW HOW!
TAKE IT EASY, GERRY! I WAS ONLY RIDING YOU! IT'S JUST THAT THAT HOODLUM IS MAKING MONKEYS OUT OF THE POLICE FORCE!


SALLY KNEW THE WHOLE STORY... ABOUT ME AND HELEN AND ABOUT STEVE AND YOUNG GERRY! SHE KNEW AND UNDERSTOOD!
STEVE DUGAN SEEMS TO BE A PERPETUAL MILLSTONE AROUND YOUR NECK, DARLING!
YES... EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS... IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER! NOW HE'S DRIVING ME CRAZY WITH THE THOUGHT OF HOW SHOCKED THE BOY WILL BE IF HE DOES DISCOVER WHAT HIS FATHER REALLY IS!


HOW CAN A MAN SO CROOKED AND DISHONEST COMMAND SUCH LOVE AND LOYALTY! FIRST, HELEN... AND NOW HIS SON! THEY JUST CAN'T BELIEVE ANYTHING BAD ABOUT HIM! AND THE BOY JUST DOTES ON HIM! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ABOUT ALL THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, DEAR... BUT I HAVE FAITH IN YOU! YOU'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT ALL RIGHT!
I WISH I HAD THE SAME FAITH IN MYSELF... BECAUSE THE NOOSE WAS DRAWING TIGHTER AND TIGHTER AROUND STEVE DUGAN'S THROAT...
MEN, WE'VE GOT TO GET DUGAN! THAT RAT'S GOT TO BE DRAGGED OUT INTO THE OPEN SO THAT WE CAN GET THE GOODS ON HIM! QUESTION EVERY STOOL PIGEON KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN! BUT... GET DUGAN TO SHOW HIS HAND!
LIEUTENANT, YOU KNOW DUGAN BETTER THAN ANYONE DOES! YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE! ASK ANY HELP YOU NEED!.. BUT STICK TO IT UNTIL IT'S CRACKED! ANY QUESTIONS?
NO QUESTIONS, SIR!
STEVE SEEMED TO SENSE TROUBLE IN THE AIR... HE VANISHED FROM HIS FAVORITE HAUNTS..
ANY SIGN OF HIM, CUNNINGHAM?
NO, LIEUTENANT! HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND HERE IN THREE WEEKS! I GUESS HE KNOWS WHAT'S UP!
PSST! LIEUTENANT!
THIS LITTLE WEASEL WAS ONE OF THE BEST POLICE INFORMERS OF THE UNDERWORLD! HE JUMPED INTO MY CAR, CROUCHED DOWN SO NO ONE COULD SEE HIM... AND TALKED...
DUGAN WAS KICKED OUT OF THE THREE-POINTS MOB, LIEUTENANT! THE GANG HEARD YOU WERE HOT AFTER HIM! SO THEY DUMPED HIM OUT! HE'S NOT THE BIG CHEESE ANY MORE!
SO HE'S THROUGH, EH? BUT WE STILL WANT HIM! WHERE IS HE, RED? WHERE IS HE HIDING OUT?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I KNOW THAT HE'S BROKE! THE GANG TOOK ALL HIS DOUGH AWAY FROM HIM... AND DUGAN IS GOING CRAZY WORRYING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIS SON... YOU KNOW THE ONE HE'S CRAZY ABOUT...
YES, I KNOW! AND IF I KNOW DUGAN HE'LL TRY TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE SURE HIS BOY'S ALL RIGHT!
RIGHT ON THE HEAD, LIEUTENANT! HE WANTS TO RAISE ENOUGH SCRATCH TO MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT... SO HE'S GOING TO TRY TO STICK UP THE PROVINCIAL LOAN COMPANY TONIGHT AT TEN...
SO THE GREAT STEVE DUGAN IS REVERTING TO TYPE, EH? ALL RIGHT, RED... THANKS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

SHALL I CALL THE PRECINCT AND TELL THEM TO SEND MORE MEN OUT TO THE LOAN COMPANY, LIEUTENANT?
NO, MINELLI. I THINK THIS IS A JOB WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES! STEP ON IT! IT'S 9:30!


THIS IS IT... LIEUTENANT... NOTHING STIRRING...
HE'S NOT HERE, YET! I'LL GO UPSTAIRS! YOU PARK THE CAR AROUND THE CORNER AND PLANT YOURSELF DOWN HERE! I THINK THIS IS THE FINISH OF MR DUGAN!

TEN MINUTES LATER
COME ON, STEVE! THIS IS IT! I'M WAITING FOR YOU AFTER FOURTEEN YEARS THIS IS THE SHOWDOWN!

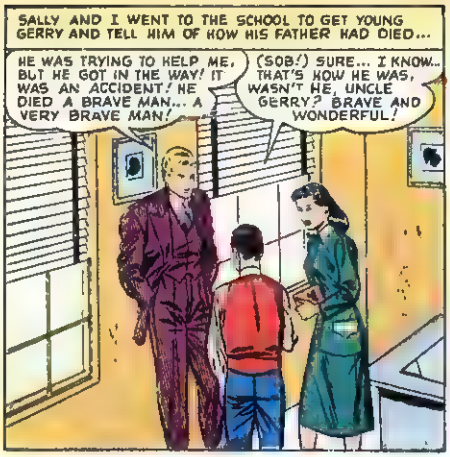
THEN... IN A SILENCE LIKE THE GRAVE... HE CAME UP THE STAIRS... WHILE I HELD MY BREATH!

HOLD IT, STEVE! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY PLACE! DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY!
HUH? GERRY! HOW... WHAT?

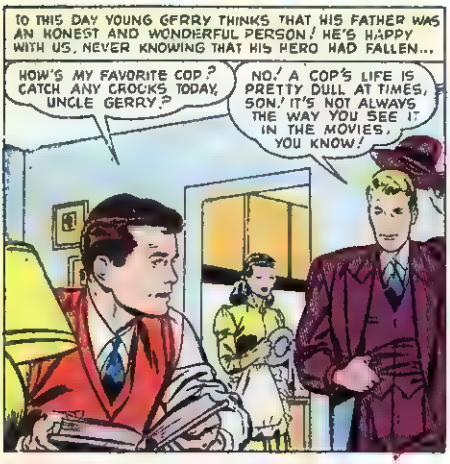
GO ON GERRY SHOOT! YOU MIGHT AS WELL! I'M ALL THROUGH ANYWAY! YOU'VE GOT ME! KILL ME, AND GET IT OVER WITH! SHOOT! DO YOU HEAR?
TAKE IT EASY, STEVE! I TOLD YOU THIS DAY WAS COMING! I'VE CAUGHT YOU. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE AT TRYING TO PULL A ROBBERY! YOU'VE COME PRETTY LOW!

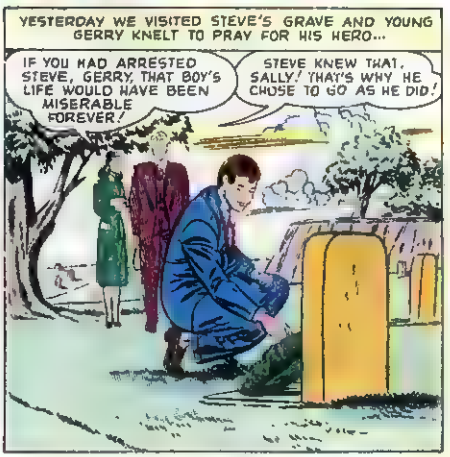
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CROOK! I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU... IT'S YOUR SON I'M THINKING OF! WHAT'S HE GOING TO THINK OF HIS HERO NOW?
YOUNG GERRY! IT'LL BREAK HIS HEART! IT'LL RUIN HIM FOR LIFE! GERRY, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T TURN ME IN!
I'LL GO STRAIGHT, I PROMISE YOU! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE DOPE ON THE GANG! ONLY DON'T LET MY BOY KNOW ABOUT ME! LET ME GO, GERRY, PLEASE!
YOU SHOULD'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR SON LONG AGO! I'M A COP, STEVE... REMEMBER THAT! I GAVE YOU YOUR CHANCE ONCE... BECAUSE OF HELEN... I CAN'T DO IT AGAIN!
COPPER! DIRTY, ROTTEN COPPER! HAVEN'T YOU GOT A HEART? HOW CAN YOU RUIN A KID'S LIFE LIKE THAT?
IT'S YOU WHO DID THE RUINING, STEVE... NOT I! SURE I'VE GOT A HEART... BUT I'VE GOT A BADGE, TOO! I'M TURNING YOU IN, STEVE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I AM TO BLAME FOR ALL THIS! I'M A ROTTER... BUT YOUNG GERRY WILL NEVER KNOW... PROMISE ME THAT, PAL!
SORRY! I CAN'T PROMISE THAT! IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS NOW!
NO, IT ISN'T, PAL. IT'S IN YOUR HANDS!
STOP, STEVE! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY! STOP! STOP, YOU CRAZY FOOL!
SHOOT, PAL! SHOOT! I'M ESCAPING! SHOOT ME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT!
THEN I UNDERSTOOD! AND I DID WHAT STEVE DUGAN WANTED ME TO DO.. I AIMED MY GUN...
11

I FIRED... AND STEVE DUGAN DROPPED!
TH-THANKS, PAL. DON'T LET THE KID KNOW, OHHHH!
I WON'T, STEVE!
LIEUTENANT, DID YOU GET HIM? I HEARD A SHOT!
MINELLI, LISTEN... AND LISTEN CAREFULLY! WE'VE GOT THE WRONG STEER! DUGAN DIDN'T TRY TO PULL THE ROBBERY! IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE... AND HE GOT AWAY!
BUT, THAT'S DUGAN, ISN'T IT?
YES... BUT I KILLED HIM ACCIDENTALLY! HE WAS PASSING BY AND GOT BETWEEN ME AND THE REAL CROOK! HAVE YOU GOT THAT MINELLI? HE WAS AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!
YES! SURE, LIEUTENANT... IF YOU SAY SO! ONLY IT SEEMS MIGHTY FUNNY...
YOU SAID IT, MINELLI! MIGHTY FUNNY! FUNNY HOW JUSTICE HAS A WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH US ALL... IN ITS OWN WAY!
YOU WAIT FOR THE WAGON AND FILE THE REPORT, MINELLI! I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT!
SURE! I UNDERSTAND! YOU GO AHEAD, LIEUTENANT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING!
12

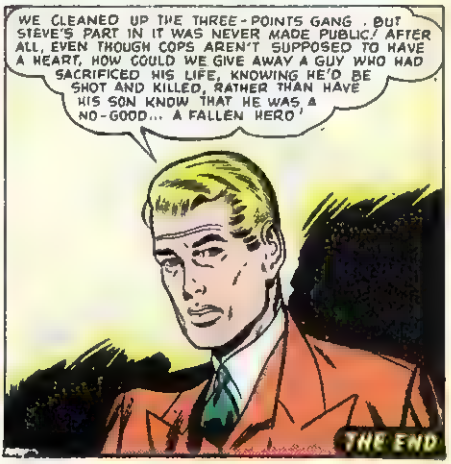

SALLY AND I WENT TO THE SCHOOL TO GET YOUNG GERRY AND TELL HIM OF HOW HIS FATHER HAD DIED...
HE WAS TRYING TO HELP ME, BUT HE GOT IN THE WAY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! HE DIED A BRAVE MAN... A VERY BRAVE MAN!
(SOB!) SURE... I KNOW... THAT'S HOW HE WAS, WASN'T HE, UNCLE GERRY? BRAVE AND WONDERFUL!

SURE, SON! THAT'S HOW HE WAS!
NOW YOU'RE COMING TO LIVE WITH US, YOUNG GERRY! WE'RE GOING TO ADOPT YOU AND TAKE CARE OF YOU AS YOUR FATHER WANTED US TO!


TO THIS DAY YOUNG GERRY THINKS THAT HIS FATHER WAS AN HONEST AND WONDERFUL PERSON! HE'S HAPPY WITH US, NEVER KNOWING THAT HIS HERO HAD FALLEN...
HOW'S MY FAVORITE COP? CATCH ANY CROOKS TODAY, UNCLE GERRY?
NO! A COP'S LIFE IS PRETTY DULL AT TIMES, SON! IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE WAY YOU SEE IT IN THE MOVIES, YOU KNOW!


YESTERDAY WE VISITED STEVE'S GRAVE AND YOUNG GERRY KNELT TO PRAY FOR HIS HERO...
IF YOU HAD ARRESTED STEVE, GERRY, THAT BOY'S LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN MISERABLE FOREVER!
STEVE KNEW THAT, SALLY! THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE TO GO AS HE DID!

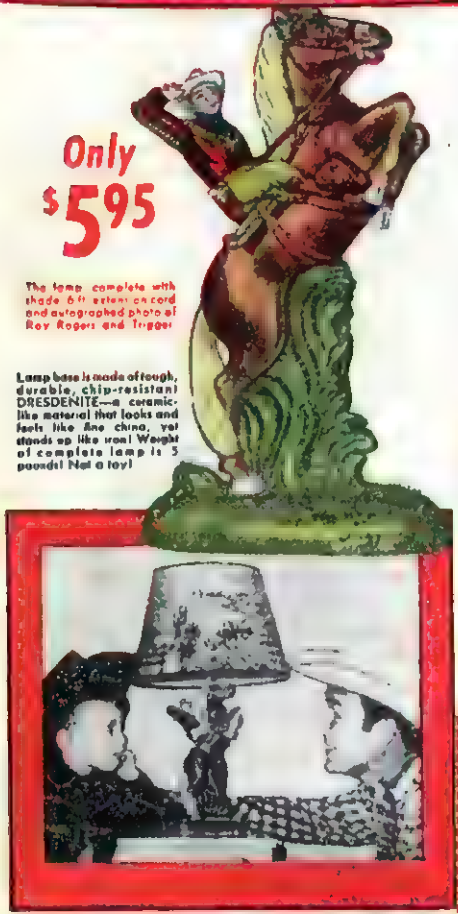
IT TOOK A LOT OF HEART TO DO WHAT HE DID! I GUESS THERE'S SOME GOOD IN THE WORST OF US!
13


WE CLEANED UP THE THREE-POINTS GANG. BUT STEVE'S PART IN IT WAS NEVER MADE PUBLIC! AFTER ALL, EVEN THOUGH COPS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE A HEART, HOW COULD WE GIVE AWAY A GUY WHO HAD SACRIFICED HIS LIFE, KNOWING HE'D BE SHOT AND KILLED, RATHER THAN HAVE HIS SON KNOW THAT HE WAS A NO-GOOD... A FALLEN HERO!
THE END

You'll Treasure It FOREVER!

ROY "King of the Cowboys" ROGERS LAMP

Official ROY ROGERS Lamp Sculptured From Real Life by a Famous Artist!



Only $5.95

The lamp complete with shade 6½ extension cord and autographed photo of Roy Rogers and Trigger

Lamp base is made of tough, durable, chip-resistant DRESDENITE—a ceramic-like material that looks and feels like fine china, yet stands up like iron! Weight of complete lamp is 5 pounds! Not a toy!

ROY and HIS SON Say It's The Real Thing!

Here is Roy Rogers and his son admiring the official ROY ROGERS LAMP. It occupies an important spot in little Roy's room. His famous dad is with him always—even as he sleeps.

Look—fellows and girls—here's the perfect lamp for your room, den—or even the family living room! Imagine—a big, beautiful, top-quality lamp that gives a lifetime of service—a superb value as a lamp alone—but *doubly* valuable and attractive because it's ROY ROGERS own official lamp,. featuring "The King of the Cowboys" and his wonder horse Trigger in the true-to-life sculptured base. Yes, this lamp is a portrait masterpiece, sculptured from real life by a famous artist. Every detail is amazingly lifelike. Roy and Trigger are fashioned so perfectly, so exact to the last detail—that they almost look alive! It's the nearest thing to having Roy and Trigger in person in your home!

The lamp is a big, big beauty you'll be proud to own. It stands over 2 feet high and is more than three feet around. The base is an exact reproduction of Roy riding on Trigger, who is rearing majestically to his full height . . . so real, so life-like, so natural, you'll gasp with amazement when you see it. Base is gorgeously painted in 8 natural "baked in" colors that will never fade or wear out. The shade is finest parchment, painted in full color with scenes from the old west. And get this—on the base you'll find a personal message "Many Happy Trails" autographed by Roy and Trigger. A heavy-duty, sturdy lamp you'll love and treasure forever. Cleans in a jiffy with a damp cloth. Operates AC or DC Underwriters' Approved.

SEND YOUR ORDER TODAY! SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!

Mail coupon for your amazingly lifelike ROY ROGERS LAMP, sentfully insured. Examine 10 days. Show it to your pals and watch their eyes pop with envy. If you're not delighted with the quality, value and amazing realism of the lamp—return it in 10 days for full refund of purchase price. Get your order in now. Production of this quality lamp is limited—don't be disappointed, order now!

EXTRA!

Order today—and get this big, clear, 8x10 autographed photo of Roy Rogers and Trigger without paying an extra penny!

DRESDEN ART WORKS

412 S. Market St., Dept. 475, Chicago 7, Ill.

DRESDEN ART WORKS, Dept. 475
412 S. Market St., Chicago 7, Ill.

I enclose $2.00 deposit. Ship Roy Rogers Lamp to me C.O.D. for $3.95 balance due plus postage. I can return lamp in 10 days for full refund!

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

THE RIVALS

"WATCH where you're going, muscle bound!" tiny Ed Williams shrilled at big Tom Edwards.

Tom was carrying one end of a heavy timber across his brawny shoulders, while Ed was drilling into the muck with the portable drill. Tom grinned. "Keep out of my way, shrimp, or I'll trample your scrawny neck in the mud!"

"You and who else," Ed yelped. "You haven't got enough brains to blow your way out of a paper bag! Get wise to yourself!"

The murky air of the tunnel partially hid Tom as he carried the timber past Ed. They were at the bottom level of the new subway tunnel being built under the river. It was the most dangerous point of the whole undertaking because the pressure of the river above was terrific. The air pumps inside the tunnel creaked and groaned as they labored to keep the water from entering so the men inside could push forward their building.

The crew of sand hogs worked slowly in the compressed air. It was hard to breathe and it was even harder to move. Aside from Ed and Tom's bantering back and forth there was little, if any conversation. At twelve o'clock a whistle blew somewhere in the tunnel and they stopped for lunch.

One by one they filed into the steel compression chamber where the pressure was gradually and artificially lifted off their aching bodies. The chamber was necessary because of the nitrogen in their blood. A quick ascent would mean the painful and dangerous "bends" which could cause rupture of the blood vessels in the joints and possibly death. They entered the chamber before going down and also before coming up to the surface.

The men sat silently and wearily on the long steel benches as the air inlets hissed noisily. In ten minutes the air inside was equal to that of the ground above and they filed out. Sam Humphrey, the gang foreman came up to Ed and Tom as they were unpacking their lunches.

"You guys better cut out that eternal squabbling. The rest of the men don't like it. Keeps 'em upset all the time."

"We would if you'll tell this muscle bound hunk of nothing to keep out of my way," Ed yelped, pointing at Tom.

Tom's big, good natured face creased in a smile. "This little shrimp gets under my feet all the time. It takes muscle and brawn to work in the tunnel. That's where the men are separated from the boys. He's got too many brains. Why don't you put him upstairs in an office where he'll be some use."

"Why you big . . ." Ed sprang furiously to his feet. "I'll . . ." he started a swing at Tom but the big man caught his arm and held the squirming, twisting Ed helplessly.

"Okay, break it up, boys," Sam said grimly. "That's an example of what I mean. If I have much more trouble with you two, I'll have to let you both go. We're working under a time contract here and nothing can slow us up. We need a gang of men all working together for the same purpose. Keep that in mind, will you?" And Sam walked off without another word.

Tom and Ed sat there, eating, glaring at each other in silence. In a few moments the whistle blew and the men began entering the chamber once more. Ed was first inside and as Tom walked past, he stuck out his foot. The big man went sprawling heavily to the steel floor.

In seconds, the two were scrapping again. Little Ed went plowing into Tom's midriff, swinging fast and furiously, like an animated windmill. Tom reached out, scooped Ed up by the collar and flung him away against the wall.

Most of the men were inside now, and one of them said, "Why don't you two lugs cut it out.

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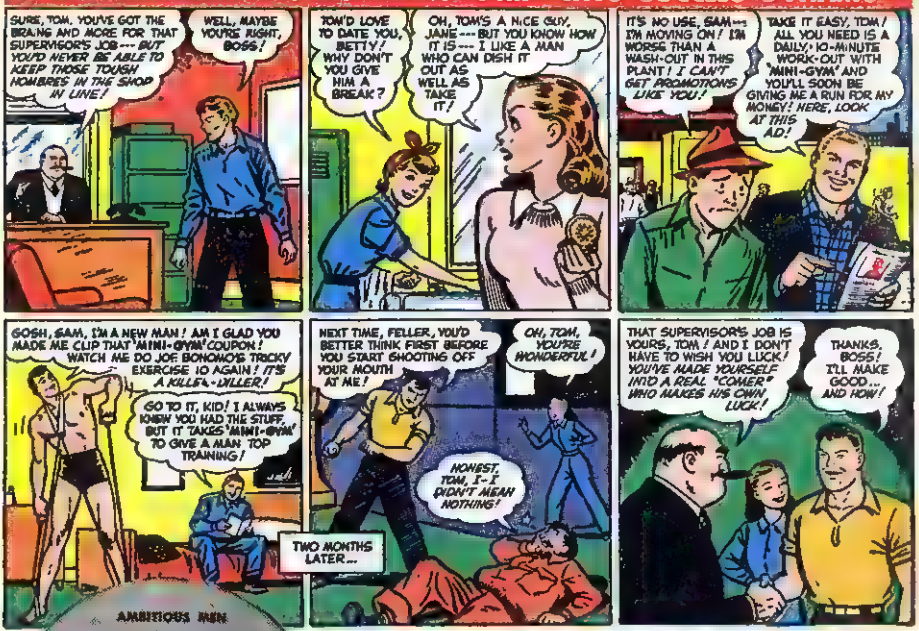
HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO


SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND MORE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB --- BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH HOMBRES IN THE SHOP IN LINE!
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!
TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?
OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE --- BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS --- I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!
IT'S NO USE, SAM --- I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!
TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!
GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE 10 AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-DILLER!
GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!
TWO MONTHS LATER...
NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!
OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
HONEST, TOM, I-I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!
THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL "COMER" WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!
THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD... AND HOW!

AMBITIOUS MEN OF ALL AGES!

TO GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE GET FIT WITH JOE BONOMO'S MAGIC DE-LUXE 'MINI-GYM'!

Formerly $4.95 — Our special Price Only

3.95 complete

FREE Joe Bonomo's Personal Instruction Book

Every thrill-packed page written for you by Joe Bonomo, this big 64-page book, printed in 2 colors, gives you a complete 'MINI-GYM' health course. Far more than an instruction manual, it's an *all-round, all-over* Body Conditioner Course! Complete with 90 especially posed photos, charts, and fun-to-follow text. Size: 5½" x 8½". YOURS FREE with your 'MINI-GYM'!

You Can't Be Too Old For 'MINI-GYM'!

Thirteen or 30, 40 or 80, once you use 'MINI-GYM', you can't wait to try it! Why? Because 'MINI-GYM' adapts *instantly* to the exercise needs . . . and thrills . . . of *any* age and *all* physical conditions from the weakest to the strongest!

POSITIVE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Yes, it means just that! Order your 'MINI-GYM' today. Then test it in every way possible . . . exercise with it and enjoy it for 10 exciting days. If you are not satisfied in *every* way . . . in fact, delighted . . . just return 'MINI-GYM', and your money will be *instantly* refunded! Fair enough, isn't it?

'MINI-GYM' CORP.
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Packs All The Punch Of a Big, Expensive Gym, Including . . .

• Rowing Machine • Wall Exerciser • Tension Pulls • Bicycle

Why let the other fellow walk away with the job . . . and girl that should be yours? Life's prizes go to the smart man who keeps himself in "prime" physical condition. It's easy with the marvellous, new 'MINI-GYM'. For with this new wonder exerciser, you can . . .

Get a Good Kick Out Of Keeping Fit

Man alive, you haven't really lived 'til you get your eager hands (Yes, and feet, too) into Joe Bonomo's best-all exerciser, the unique, new 'MINI-GYM'! Even though you hated exercise before, with superb 'MINI-GYM' and Joe Bonomo's big, new *personal* instruction book . . . you'll eat it up! Find yourself acting like a kid again . . . and loving it!

Soon Have Real 'MINI-GYM' Make Out You Into A-1 Shape!

You bet, almost before you know it, a daily 10 minutes with 'MINI-GYM' builds you into the kind of real "he man" material bosses want most . . . and girls go for fastest! Can't help but be, for this new "miracle" 'MINI-GYM' is an *all-round, all-over* body conditioner . . . meaning it does a 100% job of building YOU! Toning, strengthening and pepping up *every* muscle in your *whole* body!

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This work is tough enough without all that fighting going on every minute of the day."

Neither Tom nor Ed answered . . .

Back in the tunnel once more the work went on grimly. Ed was handling a drill at the end of the tunnel and Tom was carrying timber. Suddenly two of the air pumps went out with a grinding wheeze, and the air pressure began to drop rapidly. There was no longer quite enough pressure to keep out the water. Men began to run for the safety of the compression chamber before the end of the tunnel blew in. The lights dimmed and flickered and all but one went out. Ed had no time to move. A heavy timber crashed from the wall, pinning him across the legs to the mud as the heavy drill slipped from his hand. He was unable to rise to his feet.

Back in the tunnel Tom was just entering the chamber when he missed Ed. "Where's Ed?" he shouted.

"Back there," one of the men said, "he didn't make it!"

"I've got to get him!" Tom yelled, breaking away from the restraining hands and starting to run through the tunnel.

"Come back, you fool!" one of the men screamed at Tom, but Tom was gone, disappearing around the bend in the tunnel. They could hear his footsteps as he splashed along through the rising water.

He found Ed, lying hopelessly under the timber. Ed's eyes widened with hope as he saw Tom.

"I'll get you outa here, shrimp," Tom said. He bent to lift the heavy timber from Ed's legs, and as he did so, water spurted from the wall. Another piece of timber crashed to the tunnel floor, pinning Tom by Ed's side. The water on the floor continued to rise and in a matter of minutes both men would be completely submerged.

Tom struggled mightily, his huge muscle rippling, but he was unable to raise the heavy board. Ed spoke to him calmly, "Come on, muscle bound, use your brains. We're both trapped now. It'll take more than muscles to get us out of this mess."

The water continued to rise, and both men lay silently, conserving their strength. Ed was staring around in the murky dimness when he saw a piece of steel protruding from the mud and water. "Can you reach that piece of steel, Tom?" he asked, pointing to it.

"Don't know. I can try." Straining his body to the utmost, Tom reached his long arms and was just able to touch the tip of it, but by straining, he managed to get a grip on it and wiggle it from the mud. Inch by inch he pulled it free, until finally he had it in his big hands. "Now what, shrimp?"

"Use your brains, muscle bound. If you had a lever big enough you could move the world. Stick that bar under the timber across my leg and shove down."

The water was lapping Tom's neck as he began to use the steel bar lever fashion. The timber across Ed began to rise and painfully Ed crawled from under, his legs partially paralyzed from the crushing weight. On his stomach he wriggled to Tom's side, took the bar and began to pry Tom loose.

"Can't make it," he groaned, "I'm not heavy enough." The water was lapping at Tom's mouth when he bore down on the steel with Ed. The timber rose and he crawled free.

Ed was still unable to walk, so, struggling to his feet, Tom slung the lighter man across his shoulder and staggered down the long tunnel toward the compression chamber. They were safe now.

Later in the day, when the air pumps had been fixed and they were working once more, Ed and Tom stood side by side.

"Thanks, muscle bound," Ed said, "you saved my life."

"That's okay, shrimp," Tom replied, "I told you it takes muscle to work down here."

Ed grinned and looked straight at Tom. "Yes, I know you did, but who gave you the idea for the lever? It takes brains too."

Then they both grinned at each other. Tom stuck out his hand and Ed took it warmly. "Brains and brawn. No more fighting. That's us from now on," Tom said. "Come on, shrimp, let's get to work and be the best two men in this sand hog gang!"

THE END

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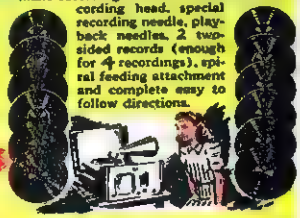

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ARE YOU A
DETECTIVE?
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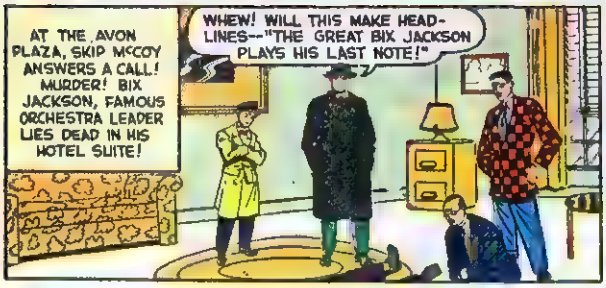
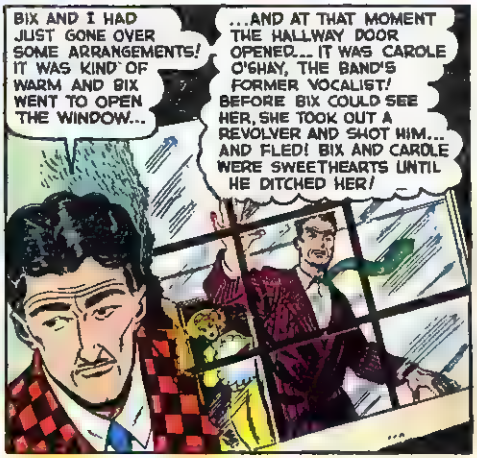
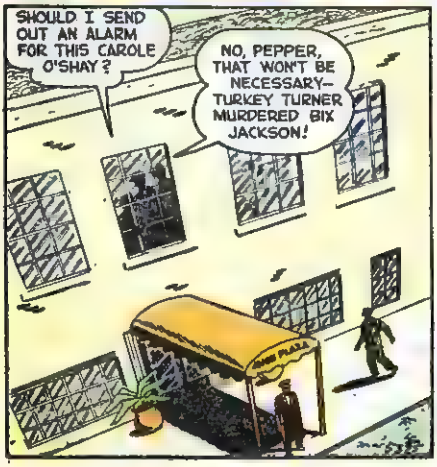

AT THE AVON PLAZA, SKIP McCOY ANSWERS A CALL! MURDER! BIX JACKSON, FAMOUS ORCHESTRA LEADER LIES DEAD IN HIS HOTEL SUITE!
WHEW! WILL THIS MAKE HEADLINES--"THE GREAT BIX JACKSON PLAYS HIS LAST NOTE!"

WELL, CORONER, WHAT'S THE VERDICT?
THERE ARE POWDER MARKS ON THE FRONT OF HIS SHIRT... DEAD ONLY HALF AN HOUR... IT'S MURDER ALL RIGHT, SKIP!

YOU'RE "TURKEY" TURNER--THE BAND ARRANGER?!
THAT'S RIGHT-- I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU! I... SAW HIM MURDERED!


BIX AND I HAD JUST GONE OVER SOME ARRANGEMENTS! IT WAS KIND OF WARM AND BIX WENT TO OPEN THE WINDOW...
...AND AT THAT MOMENT THE HALLWAY DOOR OPENED... IT WAS CAROLE O'SHAY, THE BAND'S FORMER VOCALIST! BEFORE BIX COULD SEE HER, SHE TOOK OUT A REVOLVER AND SHOT HIM... AND FLED! BIX AND CAROLE WERE SWEETHEARTS UNTIL HE DITCHED HER!


SHOULD I SEND OUT AN ALARM FOR THIS CAROLE O'SHAY?
NO, PEPPER, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY-- TURKEY TURNER MURDERED BIX JACKSON!
AVON PLAZA

LATER... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
OKAY, McCOY, I'LL SING! CAROLE WAS HERE TONIGHT... SHE TRIED TO COLLECT BACK SALARY, BUT SHE LEFT WHEN BIX TOLD HER HE'D SEND HER A CHECK! BUT HE NEVER INTENDED TO! YOU SEE... HE OWED ME MONEY TOO... HE KEPT STALLING ME UNTIL I BECAME FURIOUS! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS GUILTY?
YOU CLAIMED JACKSON WAS SHOT WHILE OPENING THE WINDOW BUT POWDER MARKS ON THE FRONT OF HIS SHIRT INDICATED THE MUZZLE OF THE GUN WHEN IT WAS FIRED!
TURN PAGE UPSIDE DOWN FOR SOLUTION!
THE END

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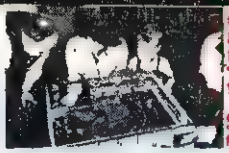

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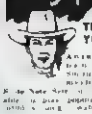

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THE STORY OF A BOY, A RANCH, A PROBLEM AND...

BLACK LIGHTNING!

LOOK AT THE BRAVE LITTLE MAMA'S BOY!
DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH, LOWELL, WE'RE ALL PLUMB SCARED OF YA! HAW, HAW!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR MOTHER'S HERE TO LOOK AFTER YOU, YOU WEAKLING!
LOWELL, COME AWAY! I FORBID YOU TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THESE RUFFIANS!
COME ON, BLACK LIGHTNING, GET IT OVER WITH! EVERYONE ELSE HAS TRAMPLED OVER ME... YOU MIGHT AS WELL, TOO!
"I GUESS I WAS JUST ABOUT THE UNHAPPIEST KID THAT EVER LIVED!! YOU'VE HEARD THE OLD SAYING: "YOU ALWAYS HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE"... WELL, MY MOTHER NEVER MEANT TO HURT ME... BUT IN HER WELL-MEANING LOVE SHE ALMOST CAUSED ME TO BECOME A FRIENDLESS MISFIT... UNTIL BLACK LIGHTNING ENTERED MY LIFE!"

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MAYBE IF I HAD LIVED IN THE CITY, IT WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT! YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR MIND MORE IN THE CITY! BUT TEXAS HAD BEEN BUILT BY GUTS AND MUSCLE! A GUY'S MIND IS RESPECTED IN TEXAS -- BUT NOT TO THE EXCLUSION OF HIS BODY! WHY? WELL, YOU MAKE YOUR LIVING OUTDOORS IN TEXAS! YOU LOOK OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW AND YOU SEE NOT ANOTHER WINDOW, BUT ACRES! ACRES *AND* ACRES... OF LAND...

THEN THERE ARE MOUNTAINS -- RUGGED RANGES -- WHERE LIFE IS STILL PRIMITIVE! BOOK LEARNING ISN'T OF MUCH USE WHEN YOU HAVE TO LIVE CLOSE TO NATURE... AS MOST TEXANS DO...

WHERE I COME FROM, DARING AND COURAGE COUNT FOR MORE THAN GOOD GRADES IN ALGEBRA AND LATIN! THE GUY THAT CAN RIDE A BUCKING BRONCO -- WELL, HE RATES HIGHER THAN THE BOOKWORM WHO CAN QUOTE CICERO! AND WHY *SHOULDN'T* HE? RANCH LIFE IS SPENT IN THE SADDLE, NOT IN WRITING COMPOSITIONS! AND MY SPECIALTY WAS COMPOSITIONS! ANY WONDER I WAS LEFT OUT OF THE PARADE FROM THE BEGINNING?

RIDE 'IM, JOEY! STICK TO 'IM! YOU GOT 'IM!

G-GOLLY, I WISH *I* COULD RIDE LIKE THAT...

WHEN THE BRONCO *THREW* JOEY -- THAT ONLY ADDED TO HIS GLAMOUR...

YIIIII!

LOOK OUT HE DOESN'T TRAMPLE YOU!

G-GOSH!

AND WHEN IT CAME OUT THAT JOEY HAD BROKEN HIS ARM, I WOULD'VE GIVEN A MILLION DOLLARS TO BE IN JOEY'S PLACE, WRITHING ON THE GROUND -- WITH ALL THE GUYS ADMIRING HIM BECAUSE HE DIDN'T CRY EVEN ONCE WITH A COMPOUND FRACTURE...

YOU FOOLISH KID! I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM THAT HOSS! HE'S POISON MEAN!

N-NO, DAD! HE JUST HAS TO BE BROKEN IN A LITTLE...

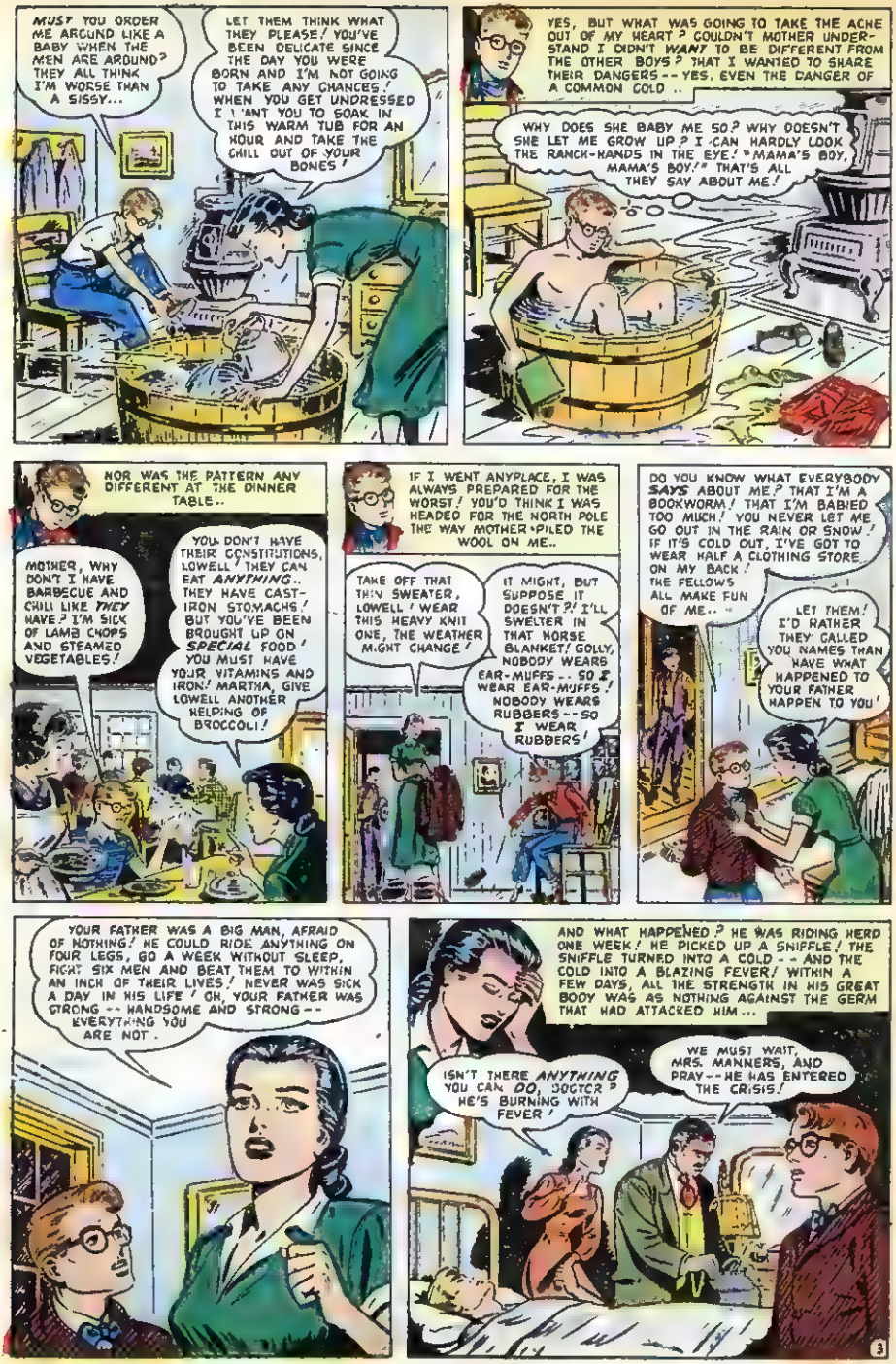
GOSH, IF IT WAS *ME* LYING THERE, I'LL BET I'D BE SCREAMING! JOEY SURE *IS* BRAVE...

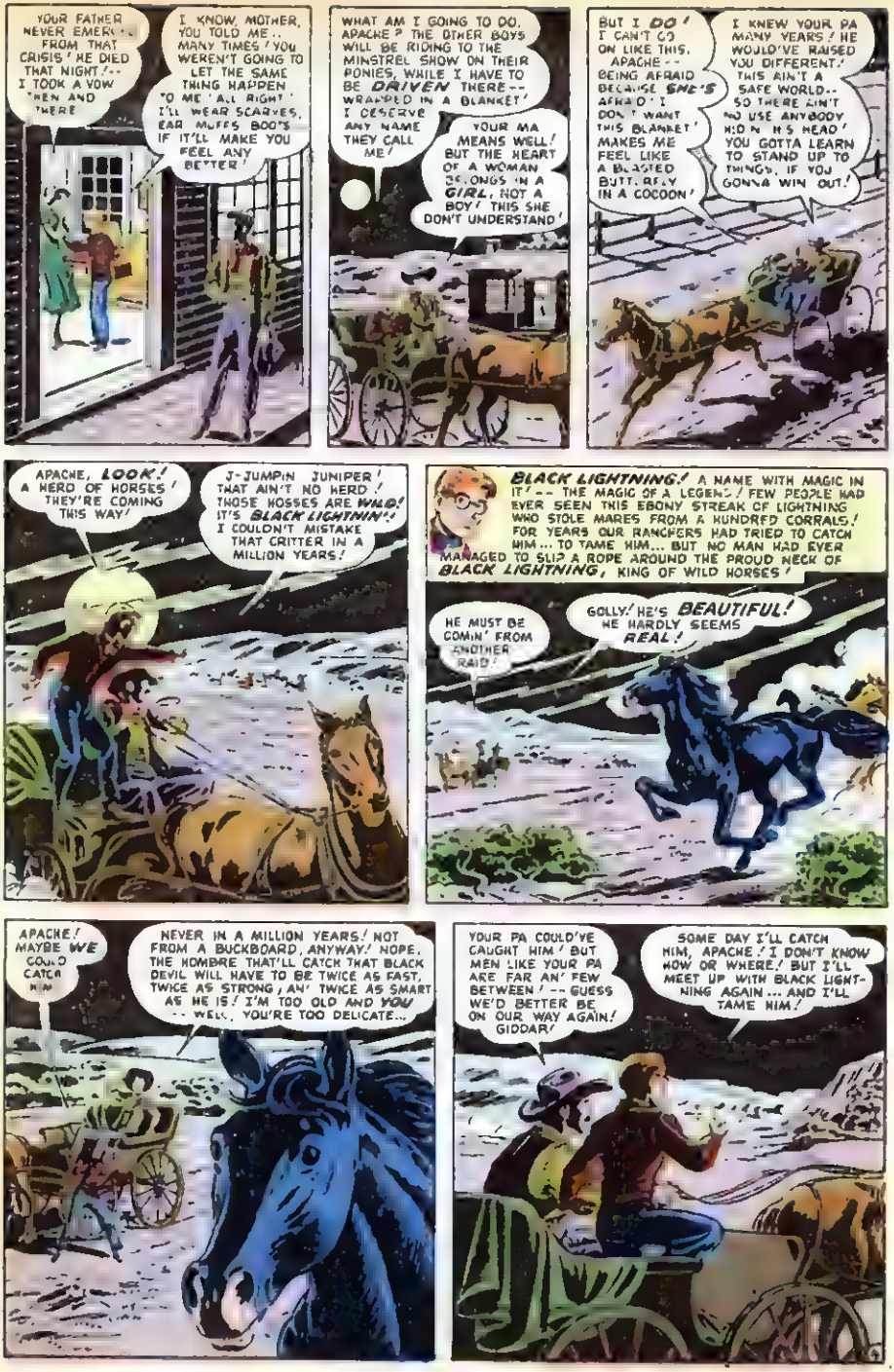
THEN I'D WALK AWAY BECAUSE MOTHER HATED WHEN I DAWDLED ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL! I'D DREAM OF THE DAY I, TOO, COULD MASTER A STALLION WITH A VICIOUS TEMPER! IN MY IMAGINATION, THERE WASN'T *ANYTHING* TOO ROUGH FOR ME TO DO... YES IN MY *IMAGINATION*...

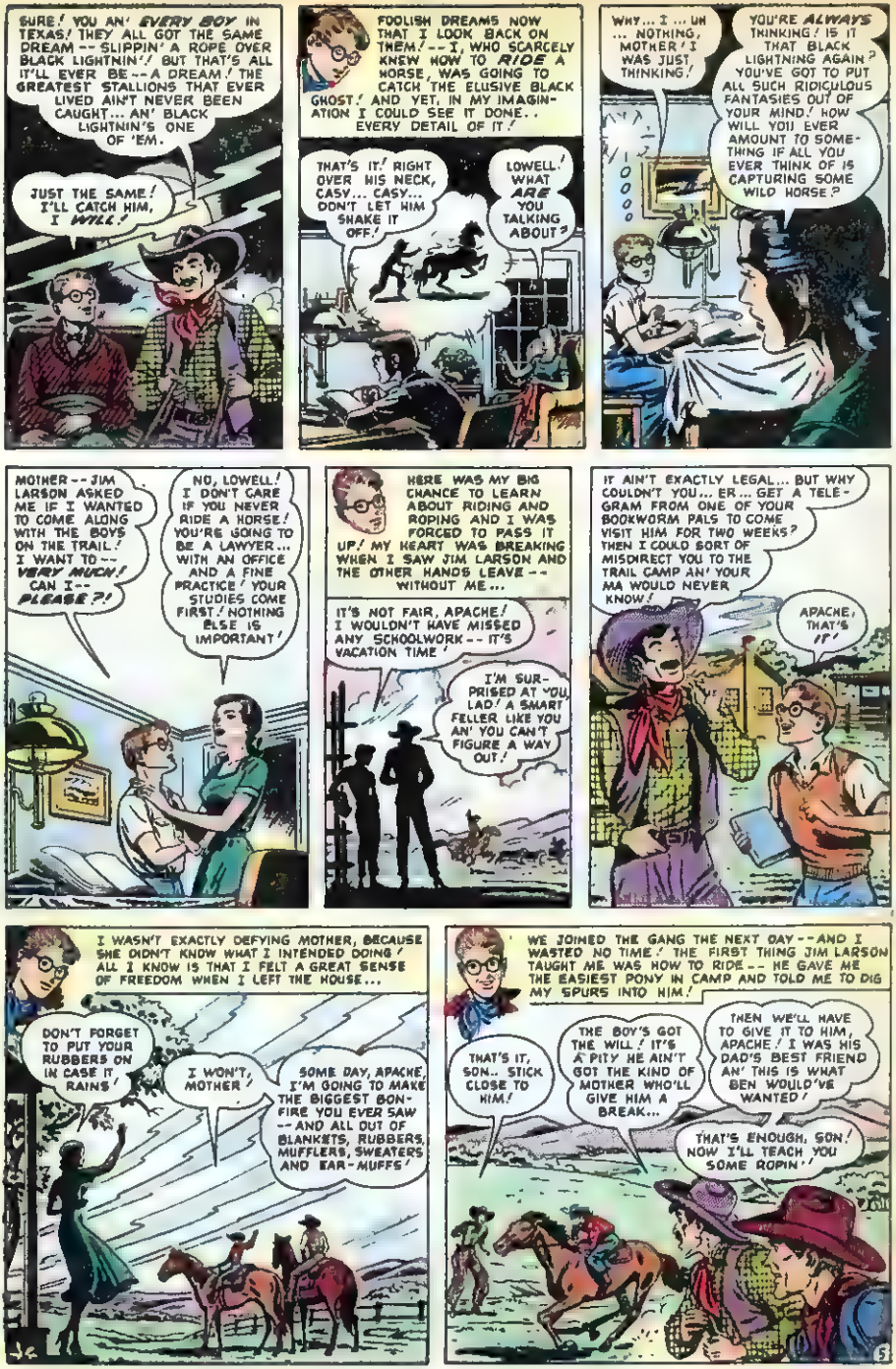
BUT REALITY CAUGHT UP WITH ME FAST ENOUGH WHEN I'D GET HOME! HEAVEN HELP ME IF IT HAD BEEN RAINING...

LOWELL! -- YOU GET INSIDE QUICKLY AND TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF! YOU MUST BE SOAKED TO THE SKIN! YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH OF PNEUMONIA!

HAW! SHE OUGHTA JEST KEEP MAMA'S BOY IN BED THE REST OF HIS LIFE! THEN HE WON'T CATCH COLD OR NOTHIN'!


MUST YOU ORDER ME AROUND LIKE A BABY WHEN THE MEN ARE AROUND? THEY ALL THINK I'M WORSE THAN A SISSY...
LET THEM THINK WHAT THEY PLEASE! YOU'VE BEEN DELICATE SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ANY CHANCES! WHEN YOU GET UNDRESSED I WANT YOU TO SOAK IN THIS WARM TUB FOR AN HOUR AND TAKE THE CHILL OUT OF YOUR BONES!
YES, BUT WHAT WAS GOING TO TAKE THE ACHE OUT OF MY HEART? COULDN'T MOTHER UNDERSTAND I DIDN'T WANT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER BOYS? THAT I WANTED TO SHARE THEIR DANGERS -- YES, EVEN THE DANGER OF A COMMON COLD ..
WHY DOES SHE BABY ME SO? WHY DOESN'T SHE LET ME GROW UP? I CAN HARDLY LOOK THE RANCH-HANDS IN THE EYE! "MAMA'S BOY, MAMA'S BOY!" THAT'S ALL THEY SAY ABOUT ME!
NOR WAS THE PATTERN ANY DIFFERENT AT THE DINNER TABLE..
MOTHER, WHY DON'T I HAVE BARBECUE AND CHILI LIKE THEY HAVE? I'M SICK OF LAMB CHOPS AND STEAMED VEGETABLES!
YOU DON'T HAVE THEIR CONSTITUTIONS, LOWELL! THEY CAN EAT ANYTHING.. THEY HAVE CAST-IRON STOMACHS! BUT YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP ON SPECIAL FOOD! YOU MUST HAVE YOUR VITAMINS AND IRON! MARTHA, GIVE LOWELL ANOTHER HELPING OF BROCCOLI!
IF I WENT ANYPLACE, I WAS ALWAYS PREPARED FOR THE WORST! YOU'D THINK I WAS HEADED FOR THE NORTH POLE THE WAY MOTHER PILED THE WOOL ON ME..
TAKE OFF THAT THIN SWEATER, LOWELL! WEAR THIS HEAVY KNIT ONE, THE WEATHER MIGHT CHANGE!
IT MIGHT, BUT SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T?! I'LL SWELTER IN THAT HORSE BLANKET! GOLLY, NOBODY WEARS EAR-MUFFS.. SO I WEAR EAR-MUFFS! NOBODY WEARS RUBBERS -- SO I WEAR RUBBERS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS ABOUT ME? THAT I'M A BOOKWORM! THAT I'M BABIED TOO MUCH! YOU NEVER LET ME GO OUT IN THE RAIN OR SNOW! IF IT'S COLD OUT, I'VE GOT TO WEAR HALF A CLOTHING STORE ON MY BACK! THE FELLOWS ALL MAKE FUN OF ME..
LET THEM! I'D RATHER THEY CALLED YOU NAMES THAN HAVE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER HAPPEN TO YOU!
YOUR FATHER WAS A BIG MAN, AFRAID OF NOTHING! HE COULD RIDE ANYTHING ON FOUR LEGS, GO A WEEK WITHOUT SLEEP, FIGHT SIX MEN AND BEAT THEM TO WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR LIVES! NEVER WAS SICK A DAY IN HIS LIFE! OH, YOUR FATHER WAS STRONG -- HANDSOME AND STRONG -- EVERYTHING YOU ARE NOT.
AND WHAT HAPPENED? HE WAS RIDING HERD ONE WEEK! HE PICKED UP A SNIFFLE! THE SNIFFLE TURNED INTO A COLD -- AND THE COLD INTO A BLAZING FEVER! WITHIN A FEW DAYS, ALL THE STRENGTH IN HIS GREAT BODY WAS AS NOTHING AGAINST THE GERM THAT HAD ATTACKED HIM...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO, DOCTOR? HE'S BURNING WITH FEVER!
WE MUST WAIT, MRS. MANNERS, AND PRAY -- HE HAS ENTERED THE CRISIS!
3


YOUR FATHER NEVER EMERGED FROM THAT CRISIS! HE DIED THAT NIGHT!-- I TOOK A VOW THEN AND THERE
I KNOW, MOTHER, YOU TOLD ME... MANY TIMES! YOU WEREN'T GOING TO LET THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO ME! ALL RIGHT! I'LL WEAR SCARVES, EAR MUFFS BOOTS IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, APACHE? THE OTHER BOYS WILL BE RIDING TO THE MINSTREL SHOW ON THEIR PONIES, WHILE I HAVE TO BE DRIVEN THERE-- WRAPPED IN A BLANKET! I DESERVE ANY NAME THEY CALL ME!
YOUR MA MEANS WELL! BUT THE HEART OF A WOMAN BELONGS IN A GIRL, NOT A BOY! THIS SHE DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BUT I DO! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, APACHE-- BEING AFRAID BECAUSE SHE'S AFRAID! I DON'T WANT THIS BLANKET! MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A BLASTED BUTT, REALLY IN A COCOON!
I KNEW YOUR PA MANY YEARS! HE WOULD'VE RAISED YOU DIFFERENT! THIS AIN'T A SAFE WORLD-- SO THERE AIN'T NO USE ANYBODY HIDIN' HIS HEAD! YOU GOTTA LEARN TO STAND UP TO THINGS, IF YOU GONNA WIN OUT!
APACHE, LOOK! A HERD OF HORSES! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
J-JUMPIN JUNIPER! THAT AIN'T NO HERD! THOSE HOSSES ARE WILD! IT'S BLACK LIGHTNIN'! I COULDN'T MISTAKE THAT CRITTER IN A MILLION YEARS!
BLACK LIGHTNING! A NAME WITH MAGIC IN IT'-- THE MAGIC OF A LEGEND! FEW PEOPLE HAD EVER SEEN THIS EBONY STREAK OF LIGHTNING WHO STOLE MARES FROM A HUNDRED CORRALS! FOR YEARS OUR RANCHERS HAD TRIED TO CATCH HIM... TO TAME HIM... BUT NO MAN HAD EVER MANAGED TO SLIP A ROPE AROUND THE PROUD NECK OF BLACK LIGHTNING, KING OF WILD HORSES!
HE MUST BE COMIN' FROM ANOTHER RAID!
GOLLY! HE'S BEAUTIFUL! HE HARDLY SEEMS REAL!
APACHE! MAYBE WE COULD CATCH HIM
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS! NOT FROM A BUCKBOARD, ANYWAY! NOPE, THE HOMBRE THAT'LL CATCH THAT BLACK DEVIL WILL HAVE TO BE TWICE AS FAST, TWICE AS STRONG, AN' TWICE AS SMART AS HE IS! I'M TOO OLD AND YOU -- WELL, YOU'RE TOO DELICATE...
YOUR PA COULD'VE CAUGHT HIM! BUT MEN LIKE YOUR PA ARE FAR AN' FEW BETWEEN! -- GUESS WE'D BETTER BE ON OUR WAY AGAIN! GIDDAP!
SOME DAY I'LL CATCH HIM, APACHE! I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHERE! BUT I'LL MEET UP WITH BLACK LIGHTNING AGAIN... AND I'LL TAME HIM!


SURE! YOU AN' EVERY BOY IN TEXAS! THEY ALL GOT THE SAME DREAM -- SLIPPIN' A ROPE OVER BLACK LIGHTNIN'! BUT THAT'S ALL IT'LL EVER BE -- A DREAM! THE GREATEST STALLIONS THAT EVER LIVED AIN'T NEVER BEEN CAUGHT... AN' BLACK LIGHTNIN'S ONE OF 'EM.
JUST THE SAME! I'LL CATCH HIM, I WILL!
FOOLISH DREAMS NOW THAT I LOOK BACK ON THEM! -- I, WHO SCARCELY KNEW HOW TO RIDE A HORSE, WAS GOING TO CATCH THE ELUSIVE BLACK GHOST! AND YET, IN MY IMAGINATION I COULD SEE IT DONE.. EVERY DETAIL OF IT!
THAT'S IT! RIGHT OVER HIS NECK, CASY... CASY... DON'T LET HIM SHAKE IT OFF!
LOWELL! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY... I ... UH ... NOTHING, MOTHER! I WAS JUST THINKING!
YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING! IS IT THAT BLACK LIGHTNING AGAIN? YOU'VE GOT TO PUT ALL SUCH RIDICULOUS FANTASIES OUT OF YOUR MIND! HOW WILL YOU EVER AMOUNT TO SOMETHING IF ALL YOU EVER THINK OF IS CAPTURING SOME WILD HORSE?
MOTHER -- JIM LARSON ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO COME ALONG WITH THE BOYS ON THE TRAIL! I WANT TO -- VERY MUCH! CAN I -- PLEASE?!
NO, LOWELL! I DON'T CARE IF YOU NEVER RIDE A HORSE! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A LAWYER... WITH AN OFFICE AND A FINE PRACTICE! YOUR STUDIES COME FIRST! NOTHING ELSE IS IMPORTANT!
HERE WAS MY BIG CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT RIDING AND ROPING AND I WAS FORCED TO PASS IT UP! MY HEART WAS BREAKING WHEN I SAW JIM LARSON AND THE OTHER HANDS LEAVE -- WITHOUT ME...
IT'S NOT FAIR, APACHE! I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED ANY SCHOOLWORK -- IT'S VACATION TIME!
I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, LAD! A SMART FELLER LIKE YOU AN' YOU CAN'T FIGURE A WAY OUT!
IT AIN'T EXACTLY LEGAL... BUT WHY COULDN'T YOU... ER... GET A TELEGRAM FROM ONE OF YOUR BOOKWORM PALS TO COME VISIT HIM FOR TWO WEEKS? THEN I COULD SORT OF MISDIRECT YOU TO THE TRAIL CAMP AN' YOUR MA WOULD NEVER KNOW!
APACHE, THAT'S IT!
I WASN'T EXACTLY DEFYING MOTHER, BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I INTENDED DOING! ALL I KNOW IS THAT I FELT A GREAT SENSE OF FREEDOM WHEN I LEFT THE HOUSE...
DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR RUBBERS ON IN CASE IT RAINS!
I WON'T, MOTHER!
SOME DAY, APACHE, I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BIGGEST BONFIRE YOU EVER SAW -- AND ALL OUT OF BLANKETS, RUBBERS, MUFFLERS, SWEATERS AND EAR-MUFFS!
WE JOINED THE GANG THE NEXT DAY -- AND I WASTED NO TIME! THE FIRST THING JIM LARSON TAUGHT ME WAS HOW TO RIDE -- HE GAVE ME THE EASIEST PONY IN CAMP AND TOLD ME TO DIG MY SPURS INTO HIM!
THAT'S IT, SON.. STICK CLOSE TO HIM!
THE BOY'S GOT THE WILL! IT'S A PITY HE AIN'T GOT THE KIND OF MOTHER WHO'LL GIVE HIM A BREAK...
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT TO HIM, APACHE! I WAS HIS DAD'S BEST FRIEND AN' THIS IS WHAT BEN WOULD'VE WANTED!
THAT'S ENOUGH, SON! NOW I'LL TEACH YOU SOME ROPIN'!

DARN! I MISSED AGAIN!
THAT DON'T MEAN NUTHIN', SON... SO LONG AS YOU GET THE HANG OF IT! ACCURACY COMES LATER!
THAT'S RIGHT, LOWELL! TOMORROW I SHOW YOU HOW TO HIT A MOVIN' TARGET!
THAT WAS EASIER SAID THAN DONE! YEARS OF SKILL GO INTO GOOD RANGE-RIDING! I FOUND THAT OUT--THE HARD WAY!
LOOK OUT, SON! YOU'RE LEANIN' TOO FAR OUTA THE SADDLE!
YEOWL
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SURE AM!-- I GOT A PIECE OF HIS HORN THAT TIME! I'M IMPROVING!
YOU ARE, LOWELL! WHEN A GUY CAN TAKE THE KNOCKS AN' COME UP SMILIN', HE DON'T LOSE IN THE END!
WELL, I WAS LEARNING... RIDING, BREAKING, ROPING, BRANDING, EVEN SOME SHOOTING! IT WAS RUGGED -- BUT I ENJOYED IT... IT HAD LATIN AND GEOMETRY BEAT HOLLOW!
WHY, I EVEN SLEPT IN A SLEEPING BLANKET IN THE RAIN... ON THE WET GROUND! THEN ONE WILD NIGHT, AN EXTRA LOUD CRASH OF LIGHTNING SEEMED TO WAKE ME UP, BUT I WAS WRONG -- APACHE WAS SHAKING MY SHOULDER LIKE A WILD MAN!
GET UP! GET UP! HE'S HERE!
W-WHO?
THAT SON OF SATAN, BLACK LIGHTNIN' HE'S TRYING TO MAKE OFF WITH OUR MARES!
AFTER HIM! HE'S GOT FIVE OR SIX OF THE HORSES TRAILIN' HIM LIKE HE WAS A MAGNET!
I HOPE HE DIDN'T GET MY HORSE... I WANT TO FOLLOW HIM!..
I GOT MY WISH! SOON I WAS OFF WITH THE OTHERS! THROUGH FLASHES OF LIGHTNING WE COULD SEE THE SABLE BEAUTY TOSSING HIS GIGANTIC MANE AND WHINNYING SO LOUD YOU COULD HEAR HIM CALLING OVER THE RUMBLE OF THE THUNDER!
WHINNNNNEYY! WHEE!
H-HE SEEMS TO BE BEARING LEFT! I'LL HEAD THAT WAY AND TRY TO CUT HIM OFF!
WELL, I GOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR! FIVE MINUTES LATER, I CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE PLUNGING DEMON HIMSELF! DESPERATELY, I TWIRLED MY LARIAT...
WHINNNNEY! WHEEE!
W-WHEN HE REARS UP LIKE THAT... (GULP!)... HE'S AS TALL AS A TREE! -- WELL, HERE GOES!
6

I... I MISSED! HE'S COMING FOR ME!
WHINNEY! WHEE!
WITH ALL THE CYCLONIC POWER OF HIS GREAT BLACK BODY, THE WILD PHANTOM PLOWED INTO MY HORSE! THERE WAS A SHOCK LIKE A GROUND SWELL -- AND I FLEW THROUGH THE AIR
OHHHH!
I HEARD A SICKENING SNAP AS I HIT THE GROUND 'A NUMBNESS SHOT THROUGH MY LEFT ARM! I COULDN'T RAISE IT! FOR A MOMENT EVERYTHING SWAM AROUND ME! THEN I SAW MY MOUNT ON ITS SIDE, STRUGGLING PAINFULLY TO GET UP! -- BLACK LIGHTNING LOOMING LIKE A VICIOUS SHADOW...
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT IF HE TAKES IT INTO HIS MIND TO TRAMPLE ME?
IT WAS AS IF HE READ MY MIND! HE JUMPED TOWARD ME! I WAS COMPLETELY AT HIS MERCY! HE RAISED ONE DEADLY HOOF! THE BLOOD FROZE IN MY VEINS! WOULD HE LASH OUT?!
N-NO! NO! DON'T..!
HE'S RUNNING AWAY! -- HE COULD'VE MAIMED ME, EVEN KILLED ME -- BUT HE DIDN'T! WHY?!
A HALF HOUR LATER --
FOR PETE'S SAKE SON -- WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WE LOCKED EVERY-- WHERE FOR YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?
IT'S BROKEN, APACHE! I WAS TRYING TO LASSO BLACK LIGHTNING. WHEN HE WENT AFTER ME! I GUESS MAYBE I DESERVE IT! MAYBE HORSES LIKE BLACK LIGHTNING WEREN'T MEANT TO BE TAMED!
IT'S FIXED NOW, SON! I AIN'T SEEN COURAGE LIKE YOURS IN A LONG TIME! YOU DIDN'T YELL ONCE! THAT TOOK GUTS
YOUR PA WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD OF YOU, BUT YOUR MA -- SHE MIGHT NOT TAKE THIS TOO WELL! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL HER?
THE TRUTH!
BUT THE TRUTH WAS MORE PAINFUL THAN THE BROKEN ARM! MOTHER WAS FURIOUS WHEN SHE HEARD I'D DECEIVED HER! BUT HER ANGER DIDN'T STOP THERE..
APACHE, JIM -- YOU WERE A PARTY TO THIS DECEPTION! YET YOU KNEW HOW I FEEL ABOUT LOWELL'S UPBRINGING! I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO DISCHARGE YOU!
NO, MOTHER! IT'S NOT JIM'S OR APACHE'S FAULT! I WANTED TO GO!
7

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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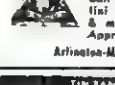

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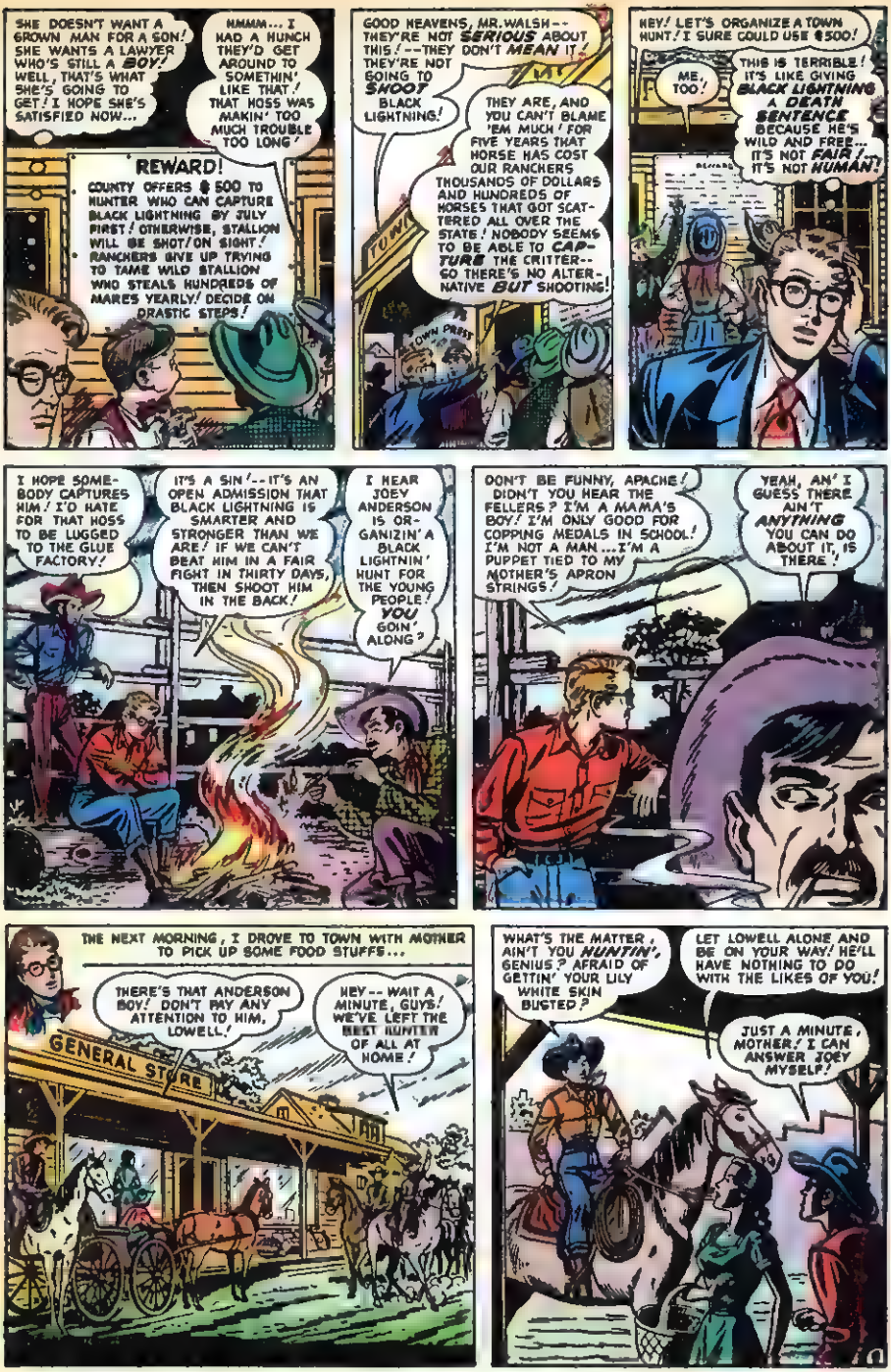
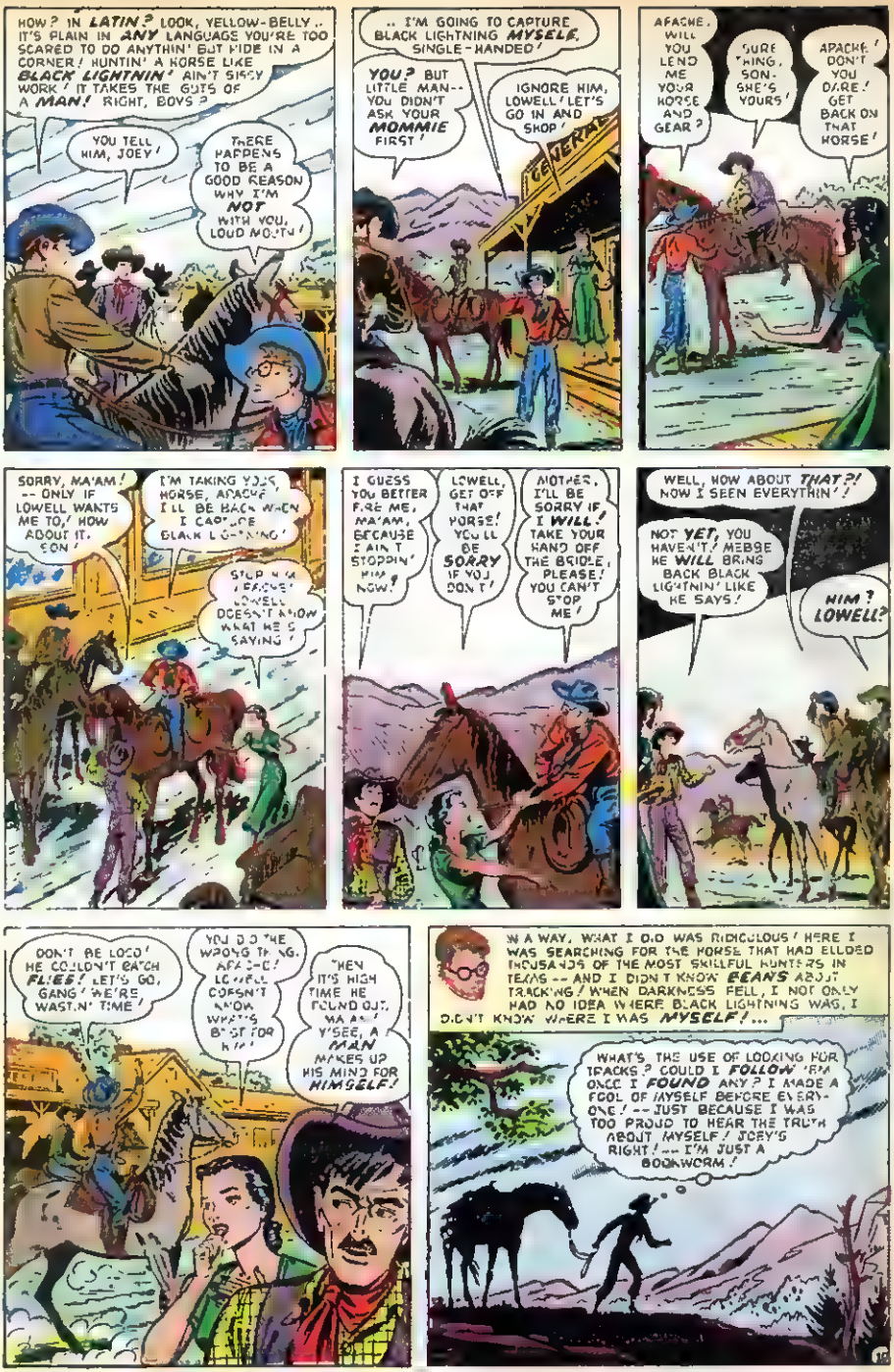
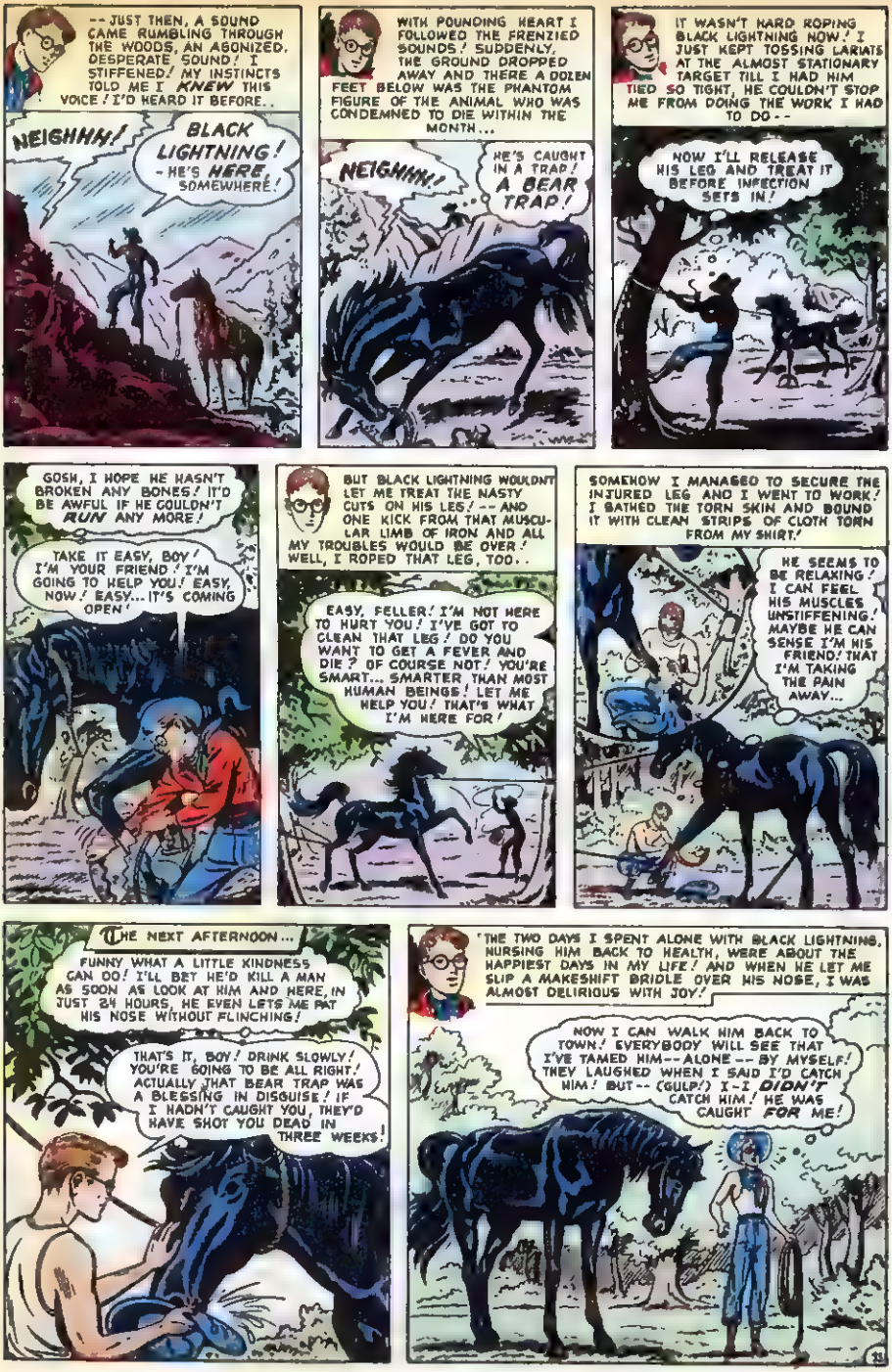
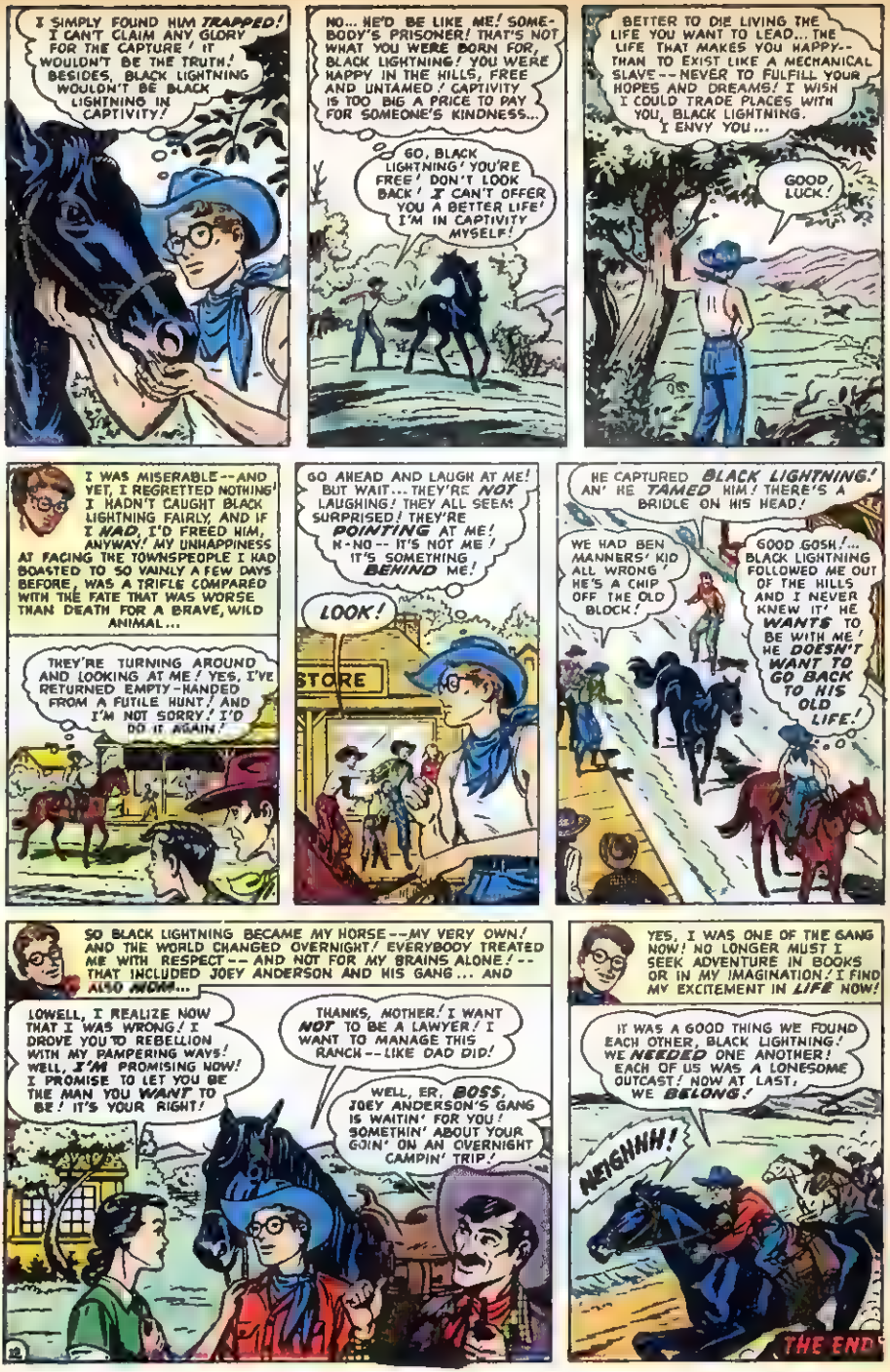
THEY'RE A BAD INFLUENCE FOR YOU! THEY ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THINGS FOR WHICH YOU'RE NOT PHYSICALLY EQUIPPED!
MAYBE YOUR MA IS RIGHT, LOWELL!
NO! IT'S NOT FAIR FOR APACHE AND YOU TO BE PUNISHED FOR MY ERRORS! LOOK, MOTHER, I'LL MAKE A PROMISE...
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY! I'LL KEEP AWAY FROM THE RANGE! I'LL STUDY, BUT DON'T FIRE APACHE AND JIM! IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT!
VERY WELL, THEN! THEY'RE NOT FIRED! --BUT IT'S ALL CONDITIONAL ON YOUR KEEPING YOUR PROMISE!
MAYBE PARENTS SEE FURTHER AND DEEPER THAN CHILDREN! I DON'T KNOW! ANYWAY, I'M SURE MOTHER DIDN'T SEE HOW MISERABLE I WAS THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS! ALL SHE SAW WAS THAT I BURIED MY NOSE IN MY BOOKS AND THAT I GRADUATED WITH MOST OF THE HONORS --HONORS I WOULD'VE GLADLY EXCHANGED FOR JOE ANDERSON'S RIDING SKILL...
CONGRATULATIONS, LOWELL, ON RECEIVING EVERY MAJOR SCHOLASTIC AWARD WE OFFER! WOULD YOU SAY A FEW WORDS TO OUR AUDIENCE?
IF YOU WISH, SIR!
I BEGAN, BUT ALL I SEEMED TO SEE WERE THE SNEERING FACES OF THE OTHER BOYS IN MY GRADUATING CLASS! WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS PLAINLY EXPRESSED ON THEIR FACES! BUT JOEY ANDERSON'S FEELINGS CAME FORTH IN A HISS THAT CARRIED UP TO THE PLATFORM...
MAMA'S BOY! MAMA'S BOY!
I...UH...I... WISH UH...
JOEY'S RIGHT! I AM A MAMA'S BOY! I'VE ALWAYS DONE EVERYTHING SHE WANTED...
MAMA'S B-H-HEY! OWW!
QUIET, YOU POLECAT-- OR I'LL TWIST IT OFF! YOU AIN'T GOT HALF THE GUTS THAT KID HAS! SO SHUT UP!
GO ON, LOWELL, YOU WERE SAYING--?
THANKS, JIM! BUT JOEY IS RIGHT! I'M A MAMA'S BOY! IN FACT, WE'RE ALL MAMA'S BOYS! EXCEPT, OF COURSE, SOME OF US STOP BEING THAT WHEN WE GROW UP! JOEY HAS RAISED AN HONEST QUESTION! WE'VE ALL GRADUATED YES -- BUT ARE WE MEN NOW? I DON'T KNOW, JOEY! I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I FIND OUT!
DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THOSE STUPID, UNCOUTH YOUNG MEN! I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU!
I'M GLAD, MOTHER! I'M GLAD SOMEBODY'S PROUD! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!


SHE DOESN'T WANT A GROWN MAN FOR A SON! SHE WANTS A LAWYER WHO'S STILL A BOY! WELL, THAT'S WHAT SHE'S GOING TO GET! I HOPE SHE'S SATISFIED NOW...
HMMM... I HAD A HUNCH THEY'D GET AROUND TO SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT! THAT HOSS WAS MAKIN' TOO MUCH TROUBLE TOO LONG!
REWARD!
COUNTY OFFERS $500 TO HUNTER WHO CAN CAPTURE BLACK LIGHTNING BY JULY FIRST! OTHERWISE, STALLION WILL BE SHOT/ON SIGHT! RANCHERS GIVE UP TRYING TO TAME WILD STALLION WHO STEALS HUNDREDS OF MARES YEARLY! DECIDE ON DRASTIC STEPS!
GOOD HEAVENS, MR. WALSH--THEY'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!--THEY DON'T MEAN IT! THEY'RE NOT GOING TO SHOOT BLACK LIGHTNING!
THEY ARE, AND YOU CAN'T BLAME 'EM MUCH! FOR FIVE YEARS THAT HORSE HAS COST OUR RANCHERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS AND HUNDREDS OF HORSES THAT GOT SCATTERED ALL OVER THE STATE! NOBODY SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CAPTURE THE CRITTER--SO THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE BUT SHOOTING!
TOWN
TOWN PRESS
HEY! LET'S ORGANIZE A TOWN HUNT! I SURE COULD USE $500!
ME, TOO!
THIS IS TERRIBLE! IT'S LIKE GIVING BLACK LIGHTNING A DEATH SENTENCE BECAUSE HE'S WILD AND FREE... IT'S NOT FAIR! IT'S NOT HUMAN!
I HOPE SOMEBODY CAPTURES HIM! I'D HATE FOR THAT HOSS TO BE LUGGED TO THE GLUE FACTORY!
IT'S A SIN--IT'S AN OPEN ADMISSION THAT BLACK LIGHTNING IS SMARTER AND STRONGER THAN WE ARE! IF WE CAN'T BEAT HIM IN A FAIR FIGHT IN THIRTY DAYS, THEN SHOOT HIM IN THE BACK!
I HEAR JOEY ANDERSON IS ORGANIZIN' A BLACK LIGHTNIN' HUNT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE! YOU GOIN' ALONG?
DON'T BE FUNNY, APACHE! DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE FELLERS? I'M A MAMA'S BOY! I'M ONLY GOOD FOR COPPING MEDALS IN SCHOOL! I'M NOT A MAN...I'M A PUPPET TIED TO MY MOTHER'S APRON STRINGS!
YEAH, AN' I GUESS THERE AIN'T ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE!
THE NEXT MORNING, I DROVE TO TOWN WITH MOTHER TO PICK UP SOME FOOD STUFFS...
THERE'S THAT ANDERSON BOY! DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HIM, LOWELL!
HEY--WAIT A MINUTE, GUYS! WE'VE LEFT THE BEST HUNTER OF ALL AT HOME!
GENERAL STORE
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AIN'T YOU HUNTIN', GENIUS? AFRAID OF GETTIN' YOUR LILY WHITE SKIN BUSTED?
LET LOWELL ALONE AND BE ON YOUR WAY! HE'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
JUST A MINUTE, MOTHER! I CAN ANSWER JOEY MYSELF!


HOW? IN LATIN? LOOK, YELLOW-BELLY.. IT'S PLAIN IN ANY LANGUAGE YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO DO ANYTHIN' BUT RIDE IN A CORNER! HUNTIN' A HORSE LIKE BLACK LIGHTNIN' AIN'T SISSY WORK! IT TAKES THE GUTS OF A MAN! RIGHT, BOYS?
YOU TELL HIM, JOEY!
THERE HAPPENS TO BE A GOOD REASON WHY I'M NOT WITH YOU, LOUD MOUTH!
.. I'M GOING TO CAPTURE BLACK LIGHTNING MYSELF, SINGLE-HANDED!
YOU? BUT LITTLE MAN-- YOU DIDN'T ASK YOUR MOMMIE FIRST!
IGNORE HIM, LOWELL! LET'S GO IN AND SHOP!
GENERAL
APACHE, WILL YOU LEND ME YOUR HORSE AND GEAR?
SURE THING, SON-SHE'S YOURS!
APACHE! DON'T YOU DARE! GET BACK ON THAT HORSE!
SORRY, MA'AM! -- ONLY IF LOWELL WANTS ME TO, HOW ABOUT IT, SON!
I'M TAKING YOUR HORSE, APACHE! I'LL BE BACK WHEN I CAPTURE BLACK LIGHTNIN'!
STOP HIM, APACHE! LOWELL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING!
I GUESS YOU BETTER FREE ME, MA'AM, BECAUSE I AIN'T STOPPIN' HIM NOW!
LOWELL, GET OFF THAT HORSE! YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU DON'T!
MOTHER, I'LL BE SORRY IF I WILL! TAKE YOUR HAND OFF THE BRIDLE, PLEASE! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!
WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT?! NOW I SEEN EVERYTHIN'!
NOT YET, YOU HAVEN'T! MEBBE HE WILL BRING BACK BLACK LIGHTNIN' LIKE HE SAYS!
HIM? LOWELL?
DON'T BE LOCO! HE COULDN'T CATCH FLIES! LET'S GO, GANG! WE'RE WASTIN' TIME!
YOU DO THE WRONG THING, APACHE! LOWELL DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR HIM!
THEN IT'S HIGH TIME HE FOUND OUT! MA AM! Y'SEE, A MAN MAKES UP HIS MIND FOR HIMSELF!
IN A WAY, WHAT I DID WAS RIDICULOUS! HERE I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE HORSE THAT HAD ELUDED THOUSANDS OF THE MOST SKILLFUL HUNTERS IN TEXAS -- AND I DIDN'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT TRACKING! WHEN DARKNESS FELL, I NOT ONLY HAD NO IDEA WHERE BLACK LIGHTNING WAS, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS MYSELF!...
WHAT'S THE USE OF LOOKING FOR TRACKS? COULD I FOLLOW 'EM ONCE I FOUND ANY? I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF BEFORE EVERYONE! -- JUST BECAUSE I WAS TOO PROUD TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF! JOEY'S RIGHT! -- I'M JUST A BOOKWORM!


-- JUST THEN, A SOUND CAME RUMBLING THROUGH THE WOODS, AN AGONIZED, DESPERATE SOUND! I STIFFENED! MY INSTINCTS TOLD ME I KNEW THIS VOICE! I'D HEARD IT BEFORE..
NEIGHHH!
BLACK LIGHTNING! - HE'S HERE SOMEWHERE!
WITH POUNDING HEART I FOLLOWED THE FRENZIED SOUNDS! SUDDENLY, THE GROUND DROPPED AWAY AND THERE A DOZEN FEET BELOW WAS THE PHANTOM FIGURE OF THE ANIMAL WHO WAS CONDEMNED TO DIE WITHIN THE MONTH...
NEIGHHH!
HE'S CAUGHT IN A TRAP! A BEAR TRAP!
IT WASN'T HARD ROPING BLACK LIGHTNING NOW! I JUST KEPT TOSSING LARIATS AT THE ALMOST STATIONARY TARGET TILL I HAD HIM TIED SO TIGHT, HE COULDN'T STOP ME FROM DOING THE WORK I HAD TO DO--
NOW I'LL RELEASE HIS LEG AND TREAT IT BEFORE INFECTION SETS IN!
GOSH, I HOPE HE HASN'T BROKEN ANY BONES! IT'D BE AWFUL IF HE COULDN'T RUN ANY MORE!
TAKE IT EASY, BOY! I'M YOUR FRIEND! I'M GOING TO HELP YOU! EASY, NOW! EASY... IT'S COMING OPEN!
BUT BLACK LIGHTNING WOULDN'T LET ME TREAT THE NASTY CUTS ON HIS LEG! -- AND ONE KICK FROM THAT MUSCULAR LIMB OF IRON AND ALL MY TROUBLES WOULD BE OVER! WELL, I ROPED THAT LEG, TOO..
EASY, FELLER! I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU! I'VE GOT TO CLEAN THAT LEG! DO YOU WANT TO GET A FEVER AND DIE? OF COURSE NOT! YOU'RE SMART... SMARTER THAN MOST HUMAN BEINGS! LET ME HELP YOU! THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR!
SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SECURE THE INJURED LEG AND I WENT TO WORK! I BATHED THE TORN SKIN AND BOUND IT WITH CLEAN STRIPS OF CLOTH TORN FROM MY SHIRT!
HE SEEMS TO BE RELAXING! I CAN FEEL HIS MUSCLES UNSTIFFENING! MAYBE HE CAN SENSE I'M HIS FRIEND! THAT I'M TAKING THE PAIN AWAY...
THE NEXT AFTERNOON...
FUNNY WHAT A LITTLE KINDNESS CAN DO! I'LL BET HE'D KILL A MAN AS SOON AS LOOK AT HIM AND HERE, IN JUST 24 HOURS, HE EVEN LETS ME PAT HIS NOSE WITHOUT FLINCHING!
THAT'S IT, BOY! DRINK SLOWLY! YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT! ACTUALLY THAT BEAR TRAP WAS A BLESSING IN DISGUISE! IF I HADN'T CAUGHT YOU, THEY'D HAVE SHOT YOU DEAD IN THREE WEEKS!
THE TWO DAYS I SPENT ALONE WITH BLACK LIGHTNING, NURSING HIM BACK TO HEALTH, WERE ABOUT THE HAPPIEST DAYS IN MY LIFE! AND WHEN HE LET ME SLIP A MAKESHIFT BRIDLE OVER HIS NOSE, I WAS ALMOST DELIRIOUS WITH JOY!
NOW I CAN WALK HIM BACK TO TOWN! EVERYBODY WILL SEE THAT I'VE TAMED HIM -- ALONE -- BY MYSELF! THEY LAUGHED WHEN I SAID I'D CATCH HIM! BUT -- (GULP!) I -- I DIDN'T CATCH HIM! HE WAS CAUGHT FOR ME!
33


I SIMPLY FOUND HIM TRAPPED! I CAN'T CLAIM ANY GLORY FOR THE CAPTURE! IT WOULDN'T BE THE TRUTH! BESIDES, BLACK LIGHTNING WOULDN'T BE BLACK LIGHTNING IN CAPTIVITY!
NO... HE'D BE LIKE ME! SOMEBODY'S PRISONER! THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU WERE BORN FOR, BLACK LIGHTNING! YOU WERE HAPPY IN THE HILLS, FREE AND UNTAMED! CAPTIVITY IS TOO BIG A PRICE TO PAY FOR SOMEONE'S KINDNESS...
GO, BLACK LIGHTNING! YOU'RE FREE! DON'T LOOK BACK! I CAN'T OFFER YOU A BETTER LIFE! I'M IN CAPTIVITY MYSELF!
BETTER TO DIE LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LEAD... THE LIFE THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY--THAN TO EXIST LIKE A MECHANICAL SLAVE--NEVER TO FULFILL YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS! I WISH I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH YOU, BLACK LIGHTNING. I ENVY YOU...
GOOD LUCK!
I WAS MISERABLE--AND YET, I REGRETTED NOTHING! I HADN'T CAUGHT BLACK LIGHTNING FAIRLY, AND IF I HAD, I'D FREED HIM, ANYWAY! MY UNHAPPINESS AT FACING THE TOWNSPEOPLE I HAD BOASTED TO SO VAINLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE, WAS A TRIFLE COMPARED WITH THE FATE THAT WAS WORSE THAN DEATH FOR A BRAVE, WILD ANIMAL...
THEY'RE TURNING AROUND AND LOOKING AT ME! YES, I'VE RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED FROM A FUTILE HUNT! AND I'M NOT SORRY! I'D DO IT AGAIN!
GO AHEAD AND LAUGH AT ME! BUT WAIT... THEY'RE NOT LAUGHING! THEY ALL SEEM SURPRISED! THEY'RE POINTING AT ME! N-NO--IT'S NOT ME! IT'S SOMETHING BEHIND ME!
LOOK!
STORE
HE CAPTURED BLACK LIGHTNING! AN' HE TAMED HIM! THERE'S A BRIDLE ON HIS HEAD!
WE HAD BEN MANNERS' KID ALL WRONG! HE'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!
GOOD GOSH!... BLACK LIGHTNING FOLLOWED ME OUT OF THE HILLS AND I NEVER KNEW IT! HE WANTS TO BE WITH ME! HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO HIS OLD LIFE!
SO BLACK LIGHTNING BECAME MY HORSE--MY VERY OWN! AND THE WORLD CHANGED OVERNIGHT! EVERYBODY TREATED ME WITH RESPECT--AND NOT FOR MY BRAINS ALONE!--THAT INCLUDED JOEY ANDERSON AND HIS GANG... AND ALSO MOM...
LOWELL, I REALIZE NOW THAT I WAS WRONG! I DROVE YOU TO REBELLION WITH MY PAMPERING WAYS! WELL, I'M PROMISING NOW! I PROMISE TO LET YOU BE THE MAN YOU WANT TO BE! IT'S YOUR RIGHT!
THANKS, MOTHER! I WANT NOT TO BE A LAWYER! I WANT TO MANAGE THIS RANCH--LIKE DAD DID!
WELL, ER, BOSS, JOEY ANDERSON'S GANG IS WAITIN' FOR YOU! SOMETHIN' ABOUT YOUR GOIN' ON AN OVERNIGHT CAMPIN' TRIP!
YES, I WAS ONE OF THE GANG NOW! NO LONGER MUST I SEEK ADVENTURE IN BOOKS OR IN MY IMAGINATION! I FIND MY EXCITEMENT IN LIFE NOW!
IT WAS A GOOD THING WE FOUND EACH OTHER, BLACK LIGHTNING! WE NEEDED ONE ANOTHER! EACH OF US WAS A LONESOME OUTCAST! NOW AT LAST, WE BELONG!
NEIGHHH!
THE END

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LOSE UGLY FAT OR NO CHARGE

BLACKHEADS "PET HATE"

Say Men, Girls in Choosing Date

What a "black mark" is the blackhead . . . according to men and girls popular enough to be choosy about dates!

"Nobody's dreamboat!" "Nobody's date bait!" And that's not all that's said of those who are careless about blackheads. But blackheads ARE ugly! Blackheads ARE grimy! And they DON'T look good in close-ups!

So can you blame the fellow who says, "Sure, I meet lots of girls who look cute at first glance. But if, on that second glance, I see dingy blackheads, it's *good night!*"

Or can you blame the girl who confesses, "I hate to go out with a fellow who has blackheads. If he's careless about that you're sure he'll embarrass you in other ways, too!"

But you — are YOUR ears burning? Well, you've company and, sad to say, good company. There are lots of otherwise attractive fellows and girls who could date anyone they like if they'd only realize how offensive blackheads are . . . and how easily and quickly they could get rid of them . . . if they *want* to!

"He-Man" Often Guilty of Blackhead Crime

Take your "he-man" . . . super at track, games, sports of all kinds . . . who thinks that after just a shower he's ready to go anywhere! And won't the girls all admire his muscles!

Sure they would! But not many dance floors are set up for hurdle races! You can't show off your snappy left hook when only cokes are in the ring. The "he-man" who's also clean-cut, will get the breaks wherever he is.

Even Cute Girls Become Careless

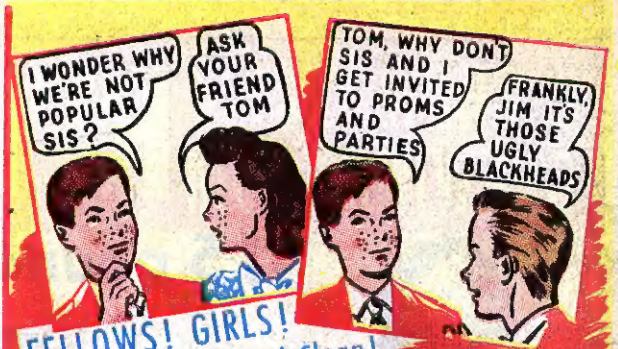
Easy, too easy, for a girl to think that if she has the latest in clothes and hair-do she needn't bother about blackheads. A little more make-up, she guesses, will take care of that. BUT MAKE-UP WON'T HIDE BLACKHEADS! Not unless it's plaster of paris, maybe! And even good make-up "slips" at a dance! So don't take chances, cute though you may be!

TAKE THESE TIPS TO BANISH BLACKHEADS

Keep skin clean by washing morning and night with warm, almost hot, water. Use good soap and plenty of it. And finish with cool water.

Extract every blackhead as soon as you see it — with a SAFE extractor. Don't use finger nails. Don't squeeze. That may mean infection, injured tissues, a marred skin.

Just be clean! Be quick! And be safe! That's easy! And that's ALL!


I WONDER WHY WE'RE NOT POPULAR SIS?
ASK YOUR FRIEND TOM
TOM, WHY DON'T SIS AND I GET INVITED TO PROMS AND PARTIES
FRANKLY, JIM ITS THOSE UGLY BLACKHEADS

FELLOWS! GIRLS!
Keep Skin Clear and Clean!

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT in Seconds with VACUTEX

NEW! SCIENTIFIC! VACUUM ACTION!

Amazing new VACUTEX is painless . . . safe . . . fast! In seconds you are rid of those ugly blackheads that clog the pores . . . make your skin look grimy and dingy . . . give others such a wrong impression of you. VACUTEX creates a gentle vacuum pressure around the blackhead and extracts it — quickly! — without injury to tender skin tissues. Keep skin always clear this new scientific way. Without painful-squeezing! Without dangerous infection from germy fingers! Just place VACUTEX over blackhead and draw back extractor. Blackhead's out! Simple! But you'll be delighted by your instantly improved appearance. Others will notice your clearer, cleaner skin! Try VACUTEX — now!

RUSH COUPON NOW!

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Don't send a penny. Mail coupon and pay postman only $1.00 plus postage. Or save all postage by enclosing $1.00 with guarantee coupon. If not thrilled to be rid of embarrassing hated blackheads this new quick way — just return VACUTEX in 10 days and get $1 back. Order today!

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No Injury to Skin Tissues!

Just place VACUTEX over blackhead — release extractor — and blackhead's out!

10 DAY TRIAL GUARANTEE

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☐ Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman $1.00 plus postage.

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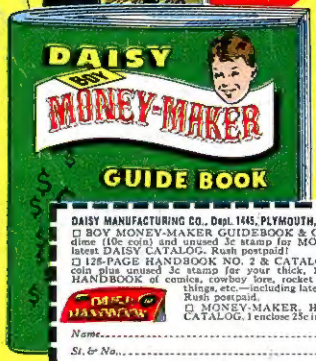

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